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The DX Magazine

The Monthly Magazine for DX'ers

The 1989 Most Wanted Countries Survey

Banaba Island T33JS

Total Ham Plus

QSL Information, and more!

Volume I, Number 11

November, 1989

The DX Magazine EDITORIAL

The Banks Island DXpedition

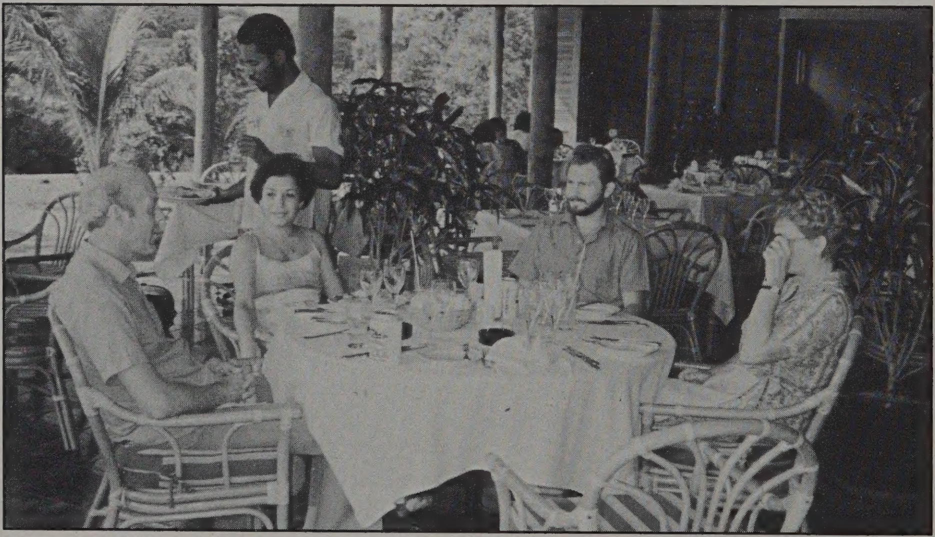
by Norman Shackley YJ8JS

[We usually read about the highly successful DXpeditions, but DXers should remember than not every attempt to operate from a rare location comes off as planned. YJ8JS's tale of his efforts to activate Banks Island on the northern tip of Vanuatu is an excellent example. -ed]

The national domestic airline in Vanuatu, Air Melanesiae, was grounded within 3 hours of our arrival on Moto Lava in the Banks Islands, thus cutting off all supplies for the operation, including food supplies. The boat which had been chartered to transport our group and 140 Kilos of radio equipment to the village failed to turn up. So our party of 3 visitors and 12 porters/guides had to walk. Trapped by an incoming tide, the guides turned inland into dense bush and very hilly terrain where, incredibly (the island is only 8 miles long and 3 wide), they lost their way. And all of this in torrential rain! The first night was spent in the bush. In the course of a memorable journey for 3 1/2 hours the next day - with some alarming ascents and descents - radio equipment and antennas suffered severe damage. After breaking two pairs of leather sandals on the long walk, I cut my feet badly on beach coral when we finally regained the coast.

On arrival in the village, the generator (which I had shipped up from Vila by sea 3 weeks earlier with other heavy equipment such as batteries) was found to have suffered extensive salt-water damage. It went up in smoke on being fired up - and that after 3 days of extensive on-off pre-delivery testing at my home QTH. Stripped down, the engine had suffered severe damage to valves and bearings with no possibility of immediate repair. There was no other generator on the island except for a tiny 0.5 KVA machine belonging to the local area council. I was forced to limit operating times to conserve battery power.

Within 24 hours my feet, predictably, had become infected from the coral cuts sustained on the long march and my mobility was reduced to a painful hobble. My antibiotic creams and tablets, together with food and other supplies, were stuck on the island of Santo and would have been following me up on the next flight but for the airline dispute. It was three days before I could get supplies from a neighbouring island by local inshore boat.



Norman YJ8JS at left with wife Mena entertains visitors to Vanuatu under more pleasant circumstances than during his DXpedition to the Banks Islands.

In these bitterly disappointing circumstances I cancelled the Torres leg immediately and settled down, with regret, to concentrate on achieving a country count rather than a quantity count. To try, in other words, to use the scarce battery power available to give contacts to as many countries as possible rather than to consume all in pile-ups.

In the event, propagation was abysmal. Due to a combination of severe damage to the A4 antenna and the ICOM AT 500 tuner, I was not enjoying the best of operating conditions. The imminent arrival of the New Zealand Deputy-Prime Minister on the island of Moto Lava within 48 hours also worked against me. Literally every able-bodied man in the village was conscripted by the chiefs to work on the preparations for the tribal feast and traditional dancing which would be presented as part of a welcome ceremony. The fact that I had high SWR and low power output problems was as nothing compared with the coming international event. This meant that help was unavailable to assist with the raising and lowering of the beam for test purposes.

I was there for eight days, all the time in daily radio contact with my Port Vila office. All the indications from Vila suggested that the airline dispute could go on for two months as it did recently in PNG with a filial of the same company. In the end I had to charter a small private aircraft to get the three of us off the island and back to Vila.

A disappointing, bitterly disappointing, frustrating, and expensive experience. Positive outcomes? I have stopped smoking (of necessity - no supplies!) and grown a beard which my wife Mena thinks very urbane and which so far has been left growing.

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The DX Magazine is dedicated to providing accurate, up-to-date information to the DXer, worldwide. Every attempt is made to ensure accuracy of the information in each issue, but no guarantees are expressed or implied, nor is any liability assumed for errors. Appropriate space will be provided for opposing viewpoints.

The DX Magazine FEATURE

The 1989 Most Wanted Countries Survey

by Chod Harris VP2ML

The results of the 1989 Most Wanted Countries Survey are in, and once again, **Albania ZA** tops the list, with 87% of respondents saying they still need Albania. This is the same percentage of DXers responding as in 1988. The complete results are on the facing page.

More than 2,000 DXers participated in the 1989 Most Wanted Countries, about a third more than in 1988. This survey continues to be the most comprehensive such survey available. And again this year, the survey represents serious DXers, as the average number of countries confirmed by the respondents was 283.

The Top Ten

There were no surprises in the Top Ten most wanted countries. The list remains as it has is the past, with minor changes, except for the anticipated exit of Vietnam, after the two successful DXpeditions in 1988 and 1989.

Albania ZA continues its lock on the coveted first place position, in every geographic region. The anticipated relaxation of the tight controls in Albania has not yet occurred. Even though there are now regularly scheduled tours to the country, the much-sought operating permission remains elusive.

Bouvet 3Y and **Burma XZ** traded positions again this year, and remain in a virtual tie for second place, with 82% of respondents needing both countries. While the prospect of operation from Burma continues to be bleak, the planned activity from Bouvet next year should drop that country far down the list in 1990. Burma continues to hold the title of the country that has been off the amateur bands the longest. The last accredited operation from Burma was by Don Miller in 1965, and some DXers doubt that Don was actually in the country.

The **People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 7O** held on to fourth place in 1989, and will likely remain in that spot, as Paul Bavassano I2RBJ was unable to carry through with his planned operation.

Afghanistan YA and **Yemen 4W** tied for fifth place this year. Since the **4W0PA** operation has not yet been accepted for DXCC credit (but don't give up hope!), there has been no accredited activity from Yemen since 1975.

Tied for seventh place are **Bangladesh S2** and **Laos XW**. The Hungarians who put Vietnam on the air for the first time since 1975 also tried to get on from Laos, but were blocked by the continuing civil war. Bangladesh hasn't been on the air since 1981. Several groups of amateurs have been trying to remedy this situation; perhaps someone will be successful soon.

Bhutan A5 breaks into the Top Ten for the first time this year, up from 11th last year. Since **A51PN** left the airways in 1982, there have been no legitimate operations from Bhutan. As with Bangladesh, some amateurs are working toward a DXpedition from Bhutan.

The number 10 slot is occupied by **Spratly 1S**. No amateur has even attemp-

Key To 1989 Most Wanted Countries Survey

The 1989 *The DX Magazine* Most Wanted Countries Survey is on the facing page. The results are in order from the Most Wanted country down. On each line is: 1989 Rank, DXCC Country name, common prefix, percentage of DXers responding who "need" the country, 1988 rank and the change in position from 1988 to 1989, and 1980 rank and change in position from 1980 to 1989. For example, Albania ZA is the number 1 most wanted country, with 87% of respondents needing Albania. It was also number 1 last year (no change in position), and moved up 3 slots from 1980, when it was the number 4 most wanted country. A positive number in the change column means the country moved up in rank, ie., became more wanted. A negative figure in the change column means the country moved down in rank, and was less needed. An asterisk (*) means not applicable.

1989				1988		1980	
Rank	**DXCC Country**	**Prefix**	**% Need**	**Rank**	**Chg**	**Rank**	**Chg**
1	Albania	ZA	87	1		4	3
2	Burma	XZ	82	3	1	3	1
3	Bouvet	3Y	82	2	-1	12	9
4	PDR of Yemen	7O	81	4		7	3
5	Afghanistan	YA	74	7	2	19	14
6	Yemen	4W	74	5	-1	20	14
7	Bangladesh	S2	67	10	3	49	42
8	Laos	XW	67	8		26	18
9	Bhutan	A5	66	11	2	55	46
10	Spratly Islands	1S	65	9	-1	53	43
11	South Sandwich Is.	VP8	62	14	3	48	37
12	Tromelin	FR	57	16	4	38	26
13	Ethiopia	ET	53	18	5	N/A	***
14	Peter Island	3Y	53	24	10	N/A	***
15	Kampuchea	XU	53	21	6	8	-7
16	United Arab Emir.	A6	52	19	3	30	14
17	Agalega	3B6	52	20	3	N/A	***
18	Malpelo Island	HK0	52	23	5	18	
19	South Sudan	ST0	51	22	3	57	38
20	Abu Ail	A15	49	28	8	47	27
21	South Georgia Is.	VP8	49	13	-8	53	32
22	Mount Athos	SV	48	27	5	45	23
23	Pagalu Island	3C0	46	35	12	39	16
24	Marion Islands	ZS2	46	12	-12	N/A	***
25	Libya	5A	46	34	9	22	-3
26	Laccadive Islands	VU7	45	15	-11	5	-21
27	Angola	D2	44	29	2	N/A	***
28	Glorioso Islands	FR	44	31	3	15	-13
29	Andaman	VU4	43	46	17	10	-19
30	Chad	TT	42	26	-4	33	3
31	San Felix	CE0	42	38	7	11	-20
32	Malagasy Republic	5R	42	33	1	31	-1
33	Heard Island	VK0	41	52	19	6	-27
34	Burkina Faso	XT	40	43	9	N/A	***
35	Tunisia	3V	39	47	12	N/A	***
36	SMOM	1A0	38	30	-6	N/A	***
37	Iran	EP	38	37		N/A	***
38	Malawi	7Q	38	48	10	N/A	***
39	Burundi	9U	38	55	16	N/A	***
40	Qatar	A7	36	N/A	***	N/A	***
41	Uganda	5X	36	54	13	23	-18
42	Kerguelen	FT-X	36	50	8	N/A	***
43	Malyj Vystoskij Is.	4J	35	N/A	***	N/A	***
44	Trindade	PY0	33	44		62	18
45	St. Peter & Paul	PY0	33	39	-6	36	-9
46	Ghana	9G	32	69	23	N/A	***
47	Kermadec Islands	ZL8	32	81	34	N/A	***
48	Auckland/Campbell	ZL9	32	73	25	58	10
49	Maldives	8Q	31	64	15	N/A	***
50	Juan de Nova	FR	31	41	-9	14	-36
51	Iraq	YI	31	45	-6	41	-10
52	Aves Island	YV0	30	N/A	***	N/A***	
53	Cocos-Keeling	VK9	29	76	23	52	-1
54	Christmas Island	VK9	29	77	23	N/A***	
55	Cameroon	TJ	29	79	24	67	12
56	Mozambique	C9	28	17	-39	N/A***	
57	Sudan	ST	28	65	8	N/A***	
58	Baker, Howland Is.	KH1	28	86	28	N/A***	
59	Sao Tome	S9	28	68	9	72	13
60	Macquarie Island	VK0	28	74	14	52	-8
61	Benin	TY	28	53	-8	34	-27
62	Kingman Reef	KH5K	28	66	4	N/A***	
63	East Malaysia	9M6	28	58	-5	62	-1
64	Congo	TN	27	36	-28	28	-36
65	Palmyra Island	KH5	27	75	10	N/A***	
66	Somali	6O	27	32	-34	21	-45
67	Clipperton Island	FO-X	27	N/A	***	64	-3
68	Vietnam	XV	27	6	-62	17	-51
69	Willis Island	VK9	26	42	-27	N/A***	
70	South Orkney Is.	VP8	26	63	-7	N/A***	
71	UK Sovereign Bases	ZC4	26	61	-10	N/A***	
72	Jan Mayen	JX	26	40	-32	N/A***	
73	Western Sahara	S0	26	49	-24	N/A***	
74	Niger	5U	26	57	-17	66	-8
75	Rwanda	9X	26	62	-13	N/A***	
76	Thailand	HS	25	84	8	N/A***	
77	Nepal	9N	24	88	11	N/A***	
78	Macao	XX9	24	70	-8	N/A***	
79	Rotuma Island	3D2	24	N/A	***	N/A***	
80	Amsterdam	FT-Z	23	67	-13	N/A***	
81	Mellish Reef	VK9	23	25	-56	50	-31
82	West Carolines	KC6	23	83	1	N/A***	
83	Brunei	V85	23	80	-3	N/A***	
84	Minami Torishima	JD	23	92	8	N/A***	
85	Ogasawara	JD	23	87	2	N/A***	
86	Equatorial Guinea	3C	23	93	7	N/A***	
87	Central Kiribati	T31	22	60	-27	N/A***	
88	Midway	KH4	22	96	8	N/A***	
89	Rodriguez Islands	3B9	21	59	-30	N/A***	
90	Mongolia	JT	21	82	-8	N/A***	
91	Taiwan	BV	21	90	-1	60	-31
92	Tuvalu	T2	21	78	-14	N/A***	
93	Armenia	UG6	21	56	-37	N/A***	
94	Comoros	D6	21	51	-43	43	-51
95	Togo	5V	20	94	-1	45	-50
96	Central African Rep.	TL	18	N/A	***	N/A***	
97	Egypt	SU	18	71	-26	N/A***	
98	Mayotte	FH	18	72	-26	51	-47
99	Wallis	FW	17	91	-8	N/A***	
100	Revilla Gigedo	XF4	13	89	-11	N/A***	

ted an operation from this disputed region since Baldur DJ6SI's disastrous trip in 1983. The Russians who operated from Vietnam in early 1989 have discussed a Spratly operation with Vietnamese officials, but have not been successful in arranging the trip.

The good news about the Top Ten is the exit of Vietnam. Thanks to the Hungarian **3W8DX/CW** DXpedition, as well as the Russian **3W0A** DXpedition, Vietnam dropped all the way to 68th place, from a tie for fifth in 1988! Prior to the 3W8DX DXpedition, Vietnam had been off the air since 1975.

The Second Ten

Activity from some of the rarest spots in the DX world has significantly shuffled the 11-20 spots this year. Remaining in the Second Ten from 1988 are **South Sandwich VP8**, **Tromelin FR/T**, **Ethiopia ET**, and **United Arab Emirates A6**. However, several countries have dropped out of this range. The most dramatic change was **Mozambique C9**, which fell all the way to 56th from 17th last year. **C9MKT** managed this despite being restricted to one weekend of operation a month.

Also dropping out of the Second Ten are **Marion Island ZS8MI**, **South Georgia VP8**, and **Laccadives VU7**. The later two didn't drop far, due to limited operations.

Moving up into the Second Ten in 1989 are **Peter I Island 3Y**, **Agalega 3B6**, **Malpelo HK0**, **South Sudan ST0**, and Abu Ail A15. Columbia amateurs are planning a Malpelo DXpedition in 1990, which will be welcome news to many DXers.

The 3D2XX Rotuma operation helped lower the new DXCC country to 79th position on the Most Wanted Countries list.

Changes from 1988

As mentioned above, the biggest change in the Most Wanted list in the past year was Vietnam, dropping from 17th to 68th. However, many other countries dropped well down the list.

The **VK9ZM/VK9ZW** crew did a fine job of satisfying demand for **Mellish Reef VK9** and **Willis VK9**. Mellish fell 56 positions, from 25th to 81st. The decision to go to Mellish was based in part on its high ranking in the 1988 survey. Willis fell from 42nd to 69th.

Many of the countries moving down in demand did so on the basis of the efforts of a one or two operators. In addition to **Mozambique C9**; **Egypt SU**, **Central Kiribati KH1**, **Congo TN**, **Rodriguez Island 3B9**, **Mayotte FH**, and **Jan Mayen JX** fall into this category. Thousands of DXers can thank Sig WA9INK, Jim Smith VK9NS, Tom Gregory N4NW, 3B9FR, FH8CB, and others for their contributions to the DX community.

Some other countries moving down significantly were **Western Sahara S0**, **Somali T5**, **Armenia UG**, and the **Comoros D6**.

Niger 5U, **Tuvalu T2**, **Rwanda 9X**, **Amsterdam FT-Z**, **Marion Island ZS8MI**, and **Revilla Gigedo XF4** also dropped in demand over the past year.

The countries moving **up** the list the most included **Kermadec ZL8**, **Baker, Howland KH1**, **Auckland, Campbell ZL9**, **Cameroon TJ**, **Cocos-Keeling VK9**, **Ghana 9G**, and **Christmas VK9**.

Six countries were added to the survey this year. **Malyj Vystoskij Island 4J** and **Rotuma 3D** were new additions to the DXCC list. The DXpeditions to these islands seem to have been successful. Rotuma entered the list in 79th place,

How It's Done

The 1989 Most Wanted Countries Survey started in the Spring of 1989, with selection of the 100 countries to appear on the Scantron forms. This year, The DX Bulletin readers were asked to send in their suggestions for additions to the list. The text for the forms is then type-set, including careful proofreading of the country names and prefixes. Enough Scantron forms for our 9,000 readers are printed, folded, and stuffed in envelopes for the mailing.

During the next month, the forms pour back to Fulton, CA, at the rate of hundreds a day, often overwhelming Box 50. Some days Box 50 gets more mail than the rest of the Zip code combined. Office manager Donica Hopkins dutifully opens, checks, and sorts the incoming forms. About 10% of the forms are incorrectly filled out, and need to be copied over.

These forms are then scanned for exact country counts, a task donated by Everett Jackson WA8CZS of Franklyn Printing Co. of Ohio, and the results analyzed with a data base management program.

Malyj Vystoskij Island also made its first appearance on the Most Wanted list, coming in at 43rd place, prior to the 1989 DXpedition.

with only 24% of respondents still needing that new one. M-V Island came in at 43rd, but that figure probably doesn't include the second M-V Island operation this year, as few DXers had their **4J1FS** QSL card by the time the survey was conducted in July.

Other new-comers to the list, at the suggestion of various DXers, are **Aves Island YV0** (52nd), **Qatar A7** (40th), **Clipperton Island FO-X** (67th), and **Central African Republic TL** (96th).

Dropping off the list to make room for these additions were Aruba P4, Mauritania 5T, Fernando PY0F, Guinea-Bissau J5, Kure KH7, and South Shetlands VP8.

Regional Variations

Europe: As one might expect, the countries that European DXers need more than those from other parts of the world are concentrated in the Pacific. Especially those countries that lie directly across the North Pole from Europe are relatively high on the European Most Wanted list. Midway KH4, Central Kiribati T31, Minami Torishima JD, Clipperton FO-X, Palmyra KH5, Wallis FW, Tuvalu T2, and many other Pacific islands rank 40 or more positions higher on the European list than on the overall ranking.

Surprisingly, Revilla Gigedo XF4 comes in 44th on the European list, despite the mammoth **XF4L** operation.

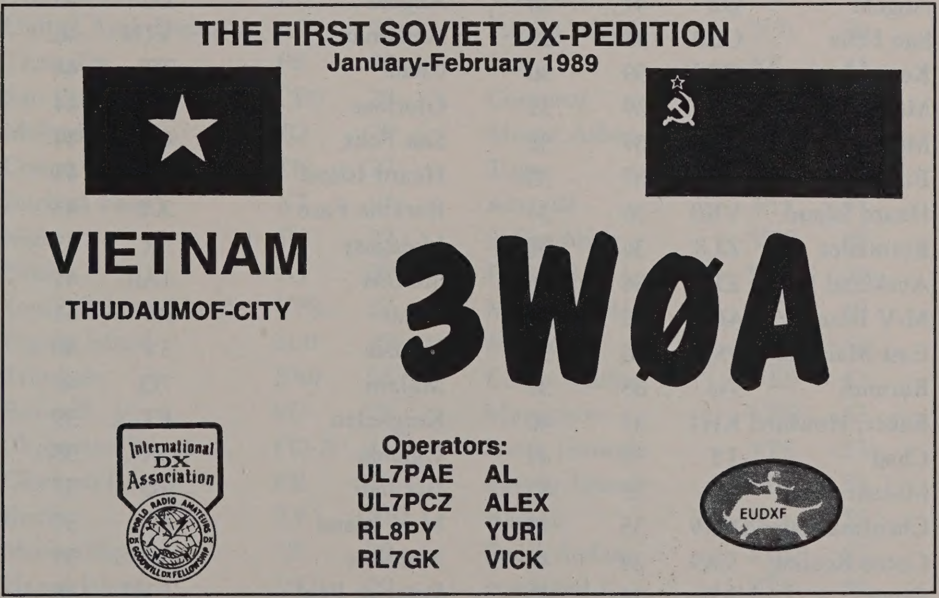
On the other side of the coin, Europeans have cleaned up on the short-haul DX. The rarer European, Middle Eastern, and north African countries may be difficult to work from most parts of the world, but not from Europe. Libya 5A, Qatar A7, Mount Athos SY, United Arab Emirates A6, M-V Island 4J, Iraq YI, Burkino Faso XT and others are at least 30 positions lower on the European list than on the worldwide ranking.

Asia: The Asians (almost all Japanese) have also worked most of the rarer DX in their vicinity. The most dramatic difference between the Japanese list and overall list is Kampuchea XU. While Kampuchea is 15th overall, it is 90th on the JA list! And **all** Asian respondents have worked Thailand, Macao, and Christmas Island VK9. Somewhat less likely, however, is the finding that Marion Island ZS8MI, M-V Island 4J, United Arab Emirates A6, and Qatar A7 are at least 20 positions lower on the Japanese list than on the overall list. No help from geography on these!

The hardest part of the world for the Japanese to work is Africa. More than half of the countries that are much higher on the Japanese list than on the overall list are in Africa, including the Comoros, Central African Republic, Niger, and Equatorial Guinea.

Other countries more than 20 slots higher on the Japanese list include Aves Island YV0, St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks PY0, Revilla Gigedo XF4, Central Kiribati T31, and Clipperton FO-X.

East Coast: East Coast DXers have taken advantage of their good shot into Europe,



Vietnam, on for the first time since 1975, fell the farthest since last year, dropping out of the Ten Twenty all the way down to 68th, thanks to 3W8CW/DX and 3W0A.

Regional Survey Results

These two pages contain the survey results by geographic region.

The top 47 countries in each region are listed in order of need, with name, prefix, and percent needing that country.

Eastern US is W1-4, W8; midwest is W5, W9-0, and Western is W6-7. Asia is mostly Japanese DXers.

Eastern United States

DXCC Country	Prefix	% Need	Rank
Albania	ZA	86	1
Burma	XZ	86	2
Bouvet	3Y	81	3
PDR of Yemen	7O	81	4
Afghanistan	YA	77	5
Yemen	4W	74	6
Laos	XW	73	7
Spratly Islands	1S	71	8
Bangladesh	S2	68	9
Bhutan	A5	67	10
South Sandwich	VP8	62	11
Kampuchea	XU	61	12
Tromelin	FR	56	13
Peter I Island	3Y	53	14
Ethiopia	ET	51	15
Agalega	3B6	51	16
Marion Islands	ZS2	49	17
Arab Emirates	A6	48	18
South Sudan	ST0	47	19
South Georgia	VP8	47	20
Andaman	VU4	46	21
Malpelo Island	HK0	44	22
Abu Ail	A15	43	23
Laccadives	VU7	43	24
Pagalu Island	3C0	43	25
Glorioso Islands	FR	42	26
Libya	5A	42	27
Angola	D2	41	28
San Felix	CE0	41	29
Kerguelen	FT-X	39	30
Malagasy Rep.	5R	39	31
Mount Athos	SV	37	32
Burkina Faso	XT	37	33
Heard Island	VK0	36	34
Kermadec	ZL8	36	35
Auckland I	ZL9	36	36
M-V Island	4J	36	37
East Malaysia	9M6	36	38
Burundi	9U	35	39
Baker, Howland	KH1	35	40
Chad	TT	35	41
Malawi	7Q	35	42
Christmas Island	VK9	35	43
Cocos-Keeling	VK9	34	44
Qatar	A7	34	45
Tunisia	3V	34	46
Iran	EP	33	47

Midwestern United States

DXCC Country	Prefix	% Need
Albania	ZA	88
Bouvet	3Y	87
PDR of Yemen	7O	85
Burma	XZ	84
Yemen	4W	77
Afghanistan	YA	74
Laos	XW	72
Bangladesh	S2	70
Bhutan	A5	70
Spratly Islands	1S	69
South Sandwich	VP8	64
Arab Emirates	A6	61
Tromelin	FR	60
Kampuchea	XU	59
Ethiopia	ET	57
South Sudan	ST0	56
Mount Athos	SV	55
South Georgia	VP8	54
Agalega	3B6	53
Laccadives	VU7	52
Abu Ail	A15	51
Malpelo Island	HK0	51
Peter Island	3Y	51
Marion Islands	ZS8	50
Libya	5A	49
Iran	EP	47
Pagalu Island	3C0	46
Angola	D2	46
Andaman	VU4	46
Chad	TT	44
Glorioso	FR	44
San Felix	CE0	44
Heard Island	VK0	43
Burkina Faso	XT	43
Malagasy	5R	41
SMOM	1A0	41
Qatar	A7	41
Tunisia	3V	40
Malawi	7Q	40
Kerguelen	FT-X	39
Uganda	5X	38
Burundi	9U	37
M-V Island	4J	37
Maldives	8Q	37
Peter & Paul	PY0	36
Iraq	YI	36
Trindade	PY0	34

Western United States

DXCC Country	Prefix	% Need
Albania	ZA	90
Bouvet	3Y	81
PDR of Yemen	7O	81
Yemen	4W	77
Afghanistan	YA	75
Burma	XZ	74
Mount Athos	SV	69
Bangladesh	S2	65
Bhutan	A5	64
South Sandwich	VP8	63
Malpelo Island	HK0	63
United Arab Emirates	A6	61
Laos	XW	60
Abu Ail	A15	60
Tromelin	FR	60
Ethiopia	ET	57
South Sudan	ST0	57
Libya	5A	57
Agalega	3B6	56
Chad	TT	56
Spratly Islands	1S	56
Peter Island	3Y	55
South Georgia Islands	VP8	53
Pagalu Island	3C0	52
Glorioso Islands	FR	52
Heard Island	VK0	51
Malagasy Republic	5R	51
Tunisia	3V	50
Laccadive Islands	VU7	50
SMOM	1A0	49
Burkina Faso	XT	48
Uganda	5X	48
Angola	D2	46
Burundi	9U	45
Marion Islands	ZS2	45
Malawi	7Q	44
Iran	EP	43
UK Sovereign Bases	ZC4	43
Kampuchea	XU	43
Andaman	VU4	43
Maldives	8Q	42
Qatar	A7	42
Trindade	PY0	42
Sudan	ST	41
San Felix	CE0	41
Cameroon	TJ	41
Somali	6O	40

Regional results help show DX operators and DXpeditioners what areas have the greatest need for their country.

Europe

DXCC Country	Prefix	% Need	Rank
Albania	ZA	74	1
Burma	XZ	71	2
Bouvet	3Y	67	3
South Sandwich	VP8	58	4
PDR of Yemen	7O	55	5
Bhutan	A5	52	6
Afghanistan	YA	52	7
Spratly Islands	1S	51	8
Malpelo Island	HK0	51	9
Bangladesh	S2	49	10
Agalega	3B6	48	11
San Felix	CE0	46	12
Laos	XW	46	13
Peter Island	3Y	46	14
Tromelin	FR	41	15
Ethiopia	ET	39	16
Palmyra Island	KH5	39	17
Midway	KH4	39	18
Clipperton	FO-X	39	19
South Sudan	ST0	38	20
Yemen	4W	38	21
Kermadec	ZL8	36	22
Kingman Reef	KH5K	36	23
South Georgia	VP8	36	24
Central Kiribati	T31	36	25
Angola	D2	36	26
Baker, Howland	KH1	36	27
Kampuchea	XU	32	28
Heard Island	VK0	32	29
Minami Torishima	JD	30	30
Pagalu Island	3C0	29	31
South Orkney	VP8	28	32
Macquarie	VK0	26	33
Marion Islands	ZS2	26	34
SMOM	1A0	26	35
Glorioso Islands	FR	26	36
Sao Tome	S9	25	37
Malagasy	5R	25	38
Abu Ail	A15	25	39
Aves Island	YV0	25	40
Trindade	PY0	25	41
Laccadives	VU7	25	42
Mellish Reef	VK9	25	43
East Malaysia	9M6	23	44
Juan de Nova	FR	23	45
Willis Island	VK9	23	46
Peter & Paul	PY0	23	47

Analysis of these results can be found on pages 6, 7, and 10. The complete list of 100 countries is available.

Asia

DXCC Country	Prefix	% Need
Albania	ZA	86
Burma	XZ	82
Bouvet	3Y	82
PDR of Yemen	7O	80
Malpelo Island	HK0	73
Yemen	4W	61
Afghanistan	YA	52
Aves Island	YV0	50
St. Peter & Paul	PY0	41
South Sandwich Islands	VP8	41
Mount Athos	SV	38
South Georgia Islands	VP8	38
Angola	D2	36
Agalega	3B6	36
SMOM	1A0	36
Bangladesh	S2	34
Ethiopia	ET	34
Libya	5A	34
Chad	TT	34
Tunisia	3V	34
Uganda	5X	34
Laos	XW	32
Malagasy Republic	5R	32
Spratly Islands	1S	32
Bhutan	A5	32
Abu Ail	A15	32
South Sudan	ST0	32
Peter Island	3Y	30
United Arab Emirates	A6	29
Tromelin	FR	29
San Felix	CE0	29
Malawi	7Q	29
Congo	TN	27
Burkina Faso	XT	27
Niger	5U	27
Ghana	9G	27
South Orkney Islands	VP8	27
Pagalu Island	3C0	25
Trindade	PY0	25
Burundi	9U	25
Clipperton Island	FO-X	23
Glorioso Islands	FR	23
Benin	TY	21
Mozambique	C9	20
Heard Island	VK0	20
Iran	EP	20
Marion Islands	ZS2	20

For comparison, here are the top 47 from the 1980 Most Wanted Survey still on the '88 list, with their 1980 rank.

1980 Survey Results

DXCC Country	Prefix	1988 Rank
Burma	XZ	3
Albania	ZA	4
Laccadive	VU7	5
Heard Island	VK0	6
PDR Yemen	7O	7
Kampuchea	XU	8
Andaman	VU4	10
San Felix	CE0	11
Bouvet	3Y	12
Juan de Nova	FR	14
Glorioso	FR	15
Vietnam	XV	17
Malpelo Island	HK0	18
Afghanistan	YA	19
Yemen	4W	20
Somali	6O	21
Libya	5A	22
Uganda	5X	23
Laos	XW	26
Congo	TN	28
Arab Emirates	A6	30
Malagasy	5R	31
Chad	TT	33
Benin	TY	34
Peter & Paul	PY0	36
Fernando	PY0	36
Willis Island	VK9	37
Tromelin	FR	38
Pagalu Island	3C0	39
Iraq	YI	41
Comoros	D6	43
Mount Athos	SV	45
Togo	5V	45
Abu Ail	A15	47
S. Sandwich	VP8	48
Bangladesh	S2	49
Mellish Reef	VK9	50
Mayotte	FH	51
Cocos-Keeling	VK9	52
Macquarie	VK0	52
South Georgia	VP8	53
Spratly Islands	1S	53
Bhutan	A5	55
South Sudan	ST0	57
Auckland I.	ZL9	58
Taiwan	BV	60
Guinea-Bissau	J5	61

the Middle East, and Africa. Most of the countries that rank significantly lower on the East Coast Most Wanted list are in Africa, including Sudan ST, Sao Tome S9, Benin TY, Mozambique C9, and Cameroon TJ. Other countries low on their ranking are UK Sovereign bases ZC, Aves YV0, St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks PY0, SMOM 1A0, and Iraq YI.

Despite the Indian DXpedition to the Laccadives, that country still ranks 26th on the Most Wanted list.

East Coasters find the western Pacific and east coast of Asia difficult to work. Brunei V8, Ogasawara JD, Taiwan BV, East Malaysia 9M6, Western Carolines KC6, and Macao XX9 rank more than 25 positions higher on the East Coast Most Wanted list than on the overall list. All the other countries that are at least 10 positions higher on the East Coast list are in the same part of the world.

West Coast: The Pacific is an easy shot from the other side of the US. Every country at least 10 positions lower on the West Coast list is in the Pacific or the Far East. Baker, Howland KH1 and Kermadec ZL8 are almost 30 positions lower on the West Coast list, for example.

The West Coast DXers still struggle with Africa and rare Europeans. Almost every one of the countries that is at least 10 positions higher on the West Coast Most Wanted list is in Africa. Togo 5V, Central African Republic TL, Comoros D6, Egypt SU, Niger 5U, and Mayotte FH are among these rare-in-the-west countries. In Europe, the UK Sovereign Bases ZC, Mount Athos SY, and Jan Mayen JX are harder to work from the West Coast than from the rest of the world.

Changes Since 1980

It is difficult to compare the Most Wanted Survey from 1980 to the latest version. Three of the top thirty in 1980 have been deleted from the DXCC list (Kamarans, Serrana Bank, and Okino Torishima), and some countries have become so easy to work that they no longer appear in the 100 countries in the Survey. China BY, Juan Fernandez CE0, Rhodes SV, Franz Josef Land UA1, Tristan ZD9, Guinea 3X, and Tokelau ZK3 are typical of this group. China actually topped the 1980 Most Wanted Survey.

Even with the changes since 1980, many of the countries on that survey are still on the list today. Malpelo HK0, Burma XZ, Albania ZA, South Yemen 7O, and Chad TT remain in approximately the same positions they occupied nine years ago, as do Malagasy Republic 5R, Cocos-Keeling VK9, East Malaysia 9M6, and Clipperton FO-X.

Countries that have dropped significantly in position, but not yet off the list, include Comoros (down 51), Vietnam (-51), Togo (-50), Mayotte (-47), Somali (-45), Juan de Nova (-36) and Congo (-36). Other countries moving down the list are Taiwan BV, Mellish Reef VK9, Benin TY, Heard Island VK0, Laccadives VU7, San Felix CE0, Andamans VU4, and Uganda 5X.

On the other hand, some countries that most DXers had confirmed in 1980 have been rare since then, and the influx of new DXers has pushed these countries up the list. Gaining the most ground is Bhutan A5, moving into the Top Ten from 55th in 1980, when A51PN was still active. Three quarters of respondents in 1980 had Bhutan confirmed; only one third can make that claim today.

Other countries moving up at least 20 positions since 1980 are Spratly Islands 1S (+43), Bangladesh S2 (+42), South Sudan ST0 (+38), South Sandwich VP8 (+37), South Georgia VP8 (+32), Abu Ail A15 (+27), Tromelin FR/T (+26), and Mouth Athos SY (+23).

Among the countries that were not on the 1980 survey but are in the top 30 Most Wanted this year are Peter I Island 3Y, Angola D2, Ethiopia ET, Agalega 3B6, and Marion Island ZS8MI.

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Banaba Island - T33JS

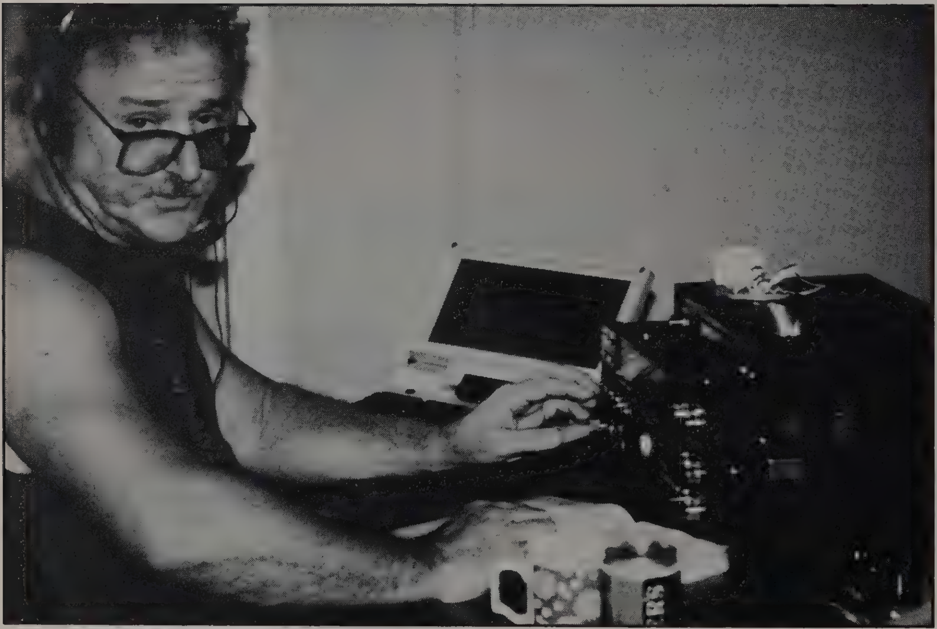
The DXpedition to a Possible New DXCC Country

by Jim Smith VK9NS

There is no doubt that the changes made to the DXCC Country Criteria have breathed new life into DXCC. Facts are that many of the DXCC countries are simply not available (Burma, Afghanistan, Albania, etc), and it was time for a change. Unless one had been around for some time it was easy to get stuck at around 308 or so countries confirmed.

Many of us, who are interested in DXpeditions to the rarer DXCC countries, began to look at our atlases with renewed vigour, as there had to be a "New One" out there somewhere! As a result the DXer has had to chase Rotuma, Marquesas, Austral, Banaba and Conway Reef, on the chance that they became additions to the DXCC country list.

In my own case, looking at that large area of the Pacific known as the Republic of Kiribati, I was thinking in terms of Malden, Starbuck, and Vostok Islands in the area of the Southern Line Islands. It was suddenly realized that Banaba Island (better known as Ocean Island) was much easier to get to. It appeared to be almost certainly a "New One."


Bob Artigo KN6J operated RTTY as T33RA from Banaba Island.

The result was that some time later I had permission, a license, and the means of getting to Banaba Island. However I did not have the means of getting back to Tarawa and this was solved by arranging a charter to come and get me after a stay of two weeks or so.

Banaba Island means "Land of Rocks" and Banaba legend says that the island came from the depths of the ocean and turned upside down. To the Banabans, they say the island looks like an overturned canoe. Those who are familiar with how raw phosphate is formed will realize that this mythology has it more or less exactly right. What was originally an island, for centuries a refuge for millions of sea birds, sank beneath the sea. The chemical reaction between water and thousands of tons of bird droppings changed these into raw phosphate. Years later the island once again rose from the sea and awaited the exploitation of its phosphate deposits.

Banaba Island was extensively mined for phosphate for many years. Both the native Banabans and their island suffered in the process. Most areas of the island resemble the moon or another alien landscape. Thousands of jagged peaks of coral jut out from the land. The phosphate deposits, which originally covered them, have long since been mined and shipped overseas.

The logistics for a Banaba DXpedition were considerable. There is no power, no water, and no down-town store to shop for food. In fact, everything needed for the stay had to be organized and finally be put in place. Gradually arrangements were made for a generator, fuel, and water to be available. (As it happened we had a lucky reprieve from the requirement to carry fresh water.) I intended to arrive in Tarawa three days before the scheduled departure of the vessel "Nei Mataburo" for Banaba Island. This time would be used to buy food and some other essentials. Subsequent events were to prove different.

About three weeks before departure I received a telephone call from Bob KN6J asking if he could come along. So it was agreed, that if things could be arranged for permission and licensing, another operator would be of considerable benefit to the DXpedition. It was further agreed that T33JS would be used for all CW and SSB QSOs (to avoid duplicate QSOs with the two operators) and that Bob, as T33RA, would run RTTY. Bob made over 800 QSOs on RTTY, and in addition took a great deal of weight off my shoulders by sharing the operating of T33JS. Almost every day the pile up was enormous and finally after some 27,200 QSOs it was all over.

Three weeks before my intended departure from Norfolk Island, I shipped (by air) some 150 Kgs of equipment ahead of me. This included a 3-element Cushcraft A4 Beam, coax cable, rotator, 6M rig and linear, RTTY gear and monitor, log books, antenna tuner, power cables, distribution boxes, keyer etc. Later, I left Norfolk with some 80 Kgs of baggage including my trusty ICOM 740, Butternut HF6V vertical, coax cable, 5-element 6M beam, key, microphone etc.

On arrival at Nadi (Fiji), I had two clear days before catching the flight to Tarawa via Funafute (Tuvalu). This flight is notorious for difficulties with freight and excess baggage, not to mention getting confirmed bookings. Next morning I checked at the freight shed, at the airport, and sure enough all my 150 Kgs of freight was still there. That day everything possible was done to ensure that the freight would travel on my flight Saturday morning. I was being faced with a DXpedition with little or no ham equipment.

On arrival at Tarawa on Saturday afternoon, my worst fears were now confirmed, as none of my 150 Kgs of freight had been shipped. Worse still, 17 pieces of passenger baggage had been off-loaded at Funafuti and one of those items happened to be my ICOM 740. Disaster stared me in the face.

Bob and Jim sailed from Tarawa to Banaba aboard the Nei Mataburo, here anchored off the harbour at Banaba.

Bob KN6J was there at the airport to meet me. He had arrived a couple of days before, and he, too, had not received all of his baggage. He did have his TS940 and a linear, but his Butternut vertical (with 160 M adaptor) and some other items were missing. It seemed that we were in a very difficult position and Murphy had not yet finished with us.

On arrival at the hotel, by this time mid-Saturday afternoon, I rang the shipping company manager to check that the Monday morning departure was still okay. I was relieved to hear that the boat would be delayed until Tuesday morning, as there was much to do and the extra time was welcome.

Bob and I then sat down and discussed things. What exactly did we have in the way of equipment, and did we have a viable DXpedition? Well, we had one rig, one linear, one Butternut vertical (no 160M adaptor), and a couple of lengths of coax. Bob had RTTY equipment, but there would be no 6M activity. So the discussion went on and it began to look as though a couple of things could be done to improve most of the situation. In short, we would go and keep our fingers crossed. We spent the rest of the afternoon and most of the next day buying food, and arranging that the generator would be delivered to the ship first thing Tuesday morning. I purchased all the necessary electrical items missing in my freight, such as extension cords, lighting arrangements and so on. There was much duplication of items and as a result added expense. Replacements had to be found for the logbooks to be used, pens, and dozen of other items still in Nadi. A gas cooker, cooking utensils, and so on, were added to our heap of gear and generally things became more cheerful.

It was around this time, on arrival

All passengers and gear had to transfer from the Nei Mataburo to small outboards to reach land. Here the 600 liters of generator fuel used during the DXpedition head toward shore.

back at the hotel late on Sunday afternoon, that Murphy picked up the telephone and called me.

The shipping company was very sorry but the "Nei Mataburo" would not be available for at least another 7 or 8 days. Before I could hit the roof, it was hurriedly explained that it was beyond their control. The government of Kiribati had requisitioned the ship to go to Nauru. The governments of Kiribati and Nauru had just settled a dispute which had left over 60 school children stranded on Nauru. They had been there almost 6 months.

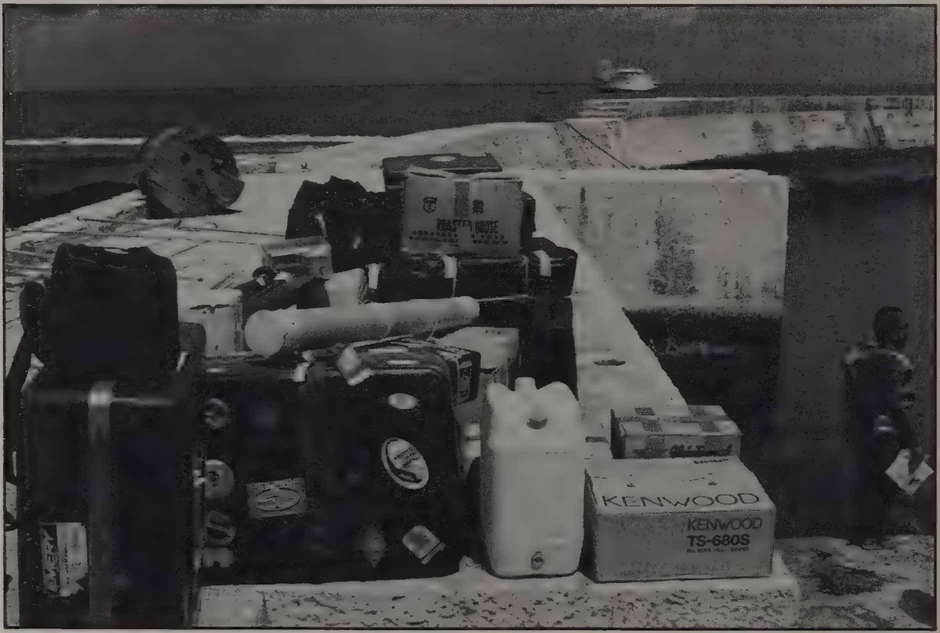
Initial reaction from both of us was one of considerable disappointment. Among other things it meant at least a week of additional expense for both of us. (In fact, we both eventually had to make arrangements for more funds to be sent to us.) However on the brighter side of things, it did mean that we had a chance of getting our long overdue baggage before our departure.

With the delayed departure, we were also able to arrange other stop-gap measures just in case the freight did not arrive. Willy, T30AC, agreed to lend us his Cushcraft A4 beam, rotator, and cable. (For good measure, we borrowed his water pipe mast and guys!) Mote T30MT agreed to lend us his TS680S (this had been donated by JA1BK after the Howland Island DXpedition) and so gave us back our 6M capability. Retite T30BY agreed to lend us his antenna tuner unit, as this was important when using the TS680S barefoot. This transceiver shuts down very quickly with high SWR.

As it happened, the Tuesday flight (from Nadi) brought my ICOM 740 and the other passenger baggage. Finally the Saturday flight brought most of my overdue freight, which had now been over four weeks on route. Murphy had two final things to say, however. They had to off-load my beam at Funafuti and Bob never got the balance of his gear.

At last Bob and I were on our way, when the "Nei Mataburo" left Tarawa on route for Banaba Island. It had been a long and frustrating wait but it had been brightened by the help and generous assistance of the T30 amateurs. We departed knowing that we had almost everything originally scheduled for the DXpedition. It seemed to us that we were finally in business.

The "Nei Mataburo" arrived off Banaba Island early Thursday morning, after an uneventful trip from Tarawa. The weather had been very good. Bob and I were poised ready to go ashore but this was to take some time. The boat had to stand off the island tied to a deep water buoy. There are no harbour facilities on Banaba for anything other than small



Some of the DXpedition's 200 kgs of equipment, antennas, accessories, food, and supplies, on the dock at Banaba, waiting for the Banaba Taxi.

Some of the native Banabans pitch in to help raise the Cushcraft A3.

boats. Finally Bob and I were ashore and gradually all our equipment was heaped up on the quay and we were surrounded by the population of the island. Men, women, and children laughed and stared at us and our pile of possessions.

There is only one old and battered truck on Banaba Island which works. This belongs to the Catholic Mission and it is nicknamed the "Banaba Taxi." It was being kept very busy but a couple of hours later our turn came. In due course everything was loaded aboard and we were on our way, climbing the steep road from the harbour area. The truck pulled into the front of Banaba House which was to be our home and shack for the next 14 days. As things turned out, it filled our every need, providing us with a spacious operating area with a large table and comfortable chairs. In addition each of us had a room for sleeping with bed, bedding, and bed linen. It exceeded our wildest speculation of where, and how, we would live and operate on Banaba.

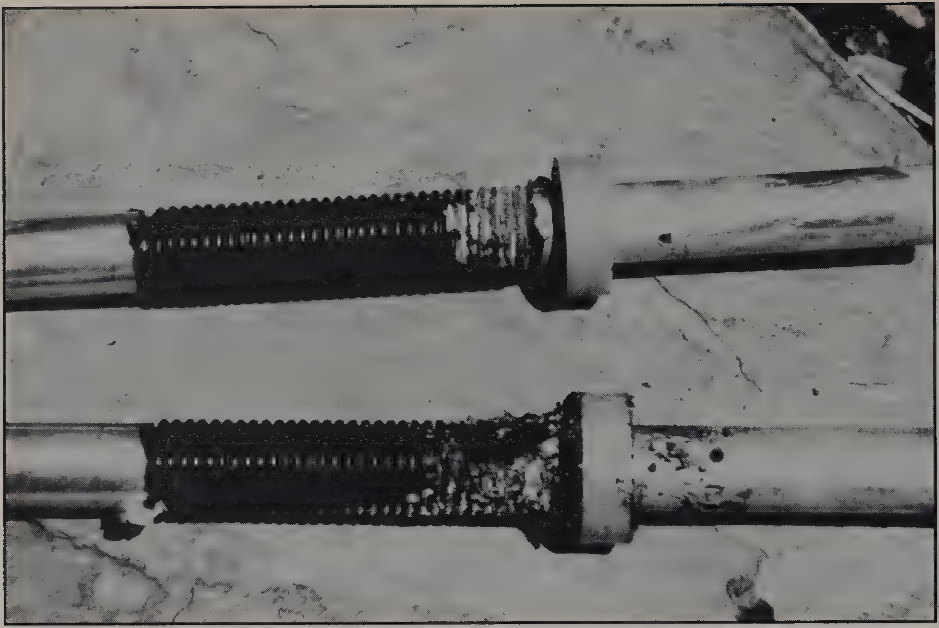
Soon we started to get the amateur radio equipment set up. I quickly erected the Butternut HF6V and opened up as T33JS, on 14222 KHz, to let people know we had arrived safely. The first QSO was with J37AH and Banaba Island was on the air. Gradually over the next day or so the beam was assembled and erected, further antennas were organized and we were soon both set in the routine of working the pile up. Bob carried the brunt of the CW operating, especially in the early days and I concentrated on 20M SSB. The 6 Meter beam and station went together and 50.110 MHz was monitored more or less continuously. However, it soon became obvious that there was something drastically wrong with the Cushcraft beam. SWR was excessive on all bands.

Willy T30AC had been using the beam for many years and he mentioned that the SWR was high on 28 Mhz. Externally the beam looked in very good condition and it had worn well. To avoid a lot of dismantling, the boom and inner sections of the elements were kept intact. We only removed the outer lengths of each element. The tips carried the traps, four in each element. The beam was then shipped very easily and was readily reassembled on Banaba Island.

Luckily a fairly long aluminum ladder was available. Using this, and by climbing off the roof, I was able to remove the driven element tips. Work was started to disassemble the traps and to try to repair them, if possible. Meanwhile back in the shack Bob kept the multitude at bay.

I was completely unprepared for what was to be the cause of the problem. In the tropics there are many varieties of wasps and bees, most of which use holes in wood as nests and as places to lay eggs etc. The traps of most beams have two or three drainage holes to let moisture escape. On taking the first trap apart (naturally we had brought tools with us) it was realized what had happened. Over

The Banaba House was the site of the T33JS/T33RA DXpedition. The borrowed A3 and 5-element 6-meter beam are attached to the porch supports.



The traps of the A3 were badly corroded, thanks to years of insect infestation. Jim had to clean the traps and insulate the coil turns with nylon fishing line.

the years, countless numbers of these small wasps or bees had entered the traps and left their various deposits inside. The ends of the trap were packed with a brown hard gunk which I broke up carefully with a screwdriver. This deposit had also been quite corrosive and some of the enamel insulation of the wire gone. Generally speaking, this material was not conducive to good trap performance!

Four traps later, some worse than others, I felt that we might now have a driven element that would work. Nylon fishing line interwound between the coil separated and insulated the turns. It was out of the question to do the reflector and driven elements. On re-assembly the beam seemed to work okay and we had many QSOs using it. Apart from a 572B going bang in Bob's linear and a bit of problem with his keyer, we had few other problems.

For 40 and 80M I had brought a dual dipole along and this was arranged as an inverted Vee antenna using the apex (about 45 feet high) of the house. This was quite high and we had good results on these bands. For 160M I rigged up an inverted L with four or five radials and this worked quite well. I used the defunct flag pole in front of Banaba House, the halyard of which had long since gone. By using the ladder and several lengths of thin saplings tied together, I was able to push a wire loop (complete with new halyard) to the top. A tug on this then held it fast and this was used to pull up the 35 feet of vertical component of the inverted L. The horizontal section then went across to the roof of the house, in general not a bad example of a typical inverted L. Much more could of course be done on the lower bands at a better time of the season.

Meanwhile the routine of operating, filling the generator, sleeping, and eating continued. We tried to avoid both being asleep at the same time. If one quit for a couple of hours of sleep, the other was wakened and so on. We were lucky in that 10M was open for hour after hour. With the exception of Europeans on 10M we did very well. There were only a couple of decent openings on that path, and mostly with Southern Europe. Most of the antenna work and other chores were done around mid-day when band conditions were quieter. One had to be very careful being outside at that time of day, as we were only one degree south of the equator.

There were also a couple of good 6M openings with KH6IAA being the first QSO and JA1BK being the first JA station. Many heard our beacon which was running on the band signing T33JS. I operated both CW and SSB and in all about 150 QSOs were made on 6, so it was quite good. Again the season was not quite right, as conditions had been superb a couple of months earlier.

As far as eating went, we did very well. The island council had arranged that we had someone to look after us. Rhea (and her husband) made sure we had cooked rice available every day. She also helped prepare something for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. She quickly learned, however, that although the food was ready on the table, we might not leave a pile up to eat. Although, eventually the food would be eaten. They often brought fresh fish. In fact, every family on Banaba depends on fish as the main ingredient of their diet. You can't blame them, as fish is readily available and is there for the taking. If they brought fish, then we usually gave tinned food in return, but this was never expected. The fish was very good and we ate it on several occasions.

Mutual interface between stations was never a major problem. Very early the vertical was moved from its initial position to increase antenna separation. Bob and I were almost always able to operate at the same time.

As things progressed we both were able to get around the island, and see the sights! I spent an interesting spell going over the phosphate processing cycle in some detail. The whole infra-structure is still intact but, of course, gradually rusting away and generally deteriorating. Dozens of old cars and vehicles lie around, waiting and rusting away, just where they were left years ago. The island has many of the aspects of a ghost town.

The Banabans are a friendly and courteous people and they made us welcome. They were impressed by our

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27,000 QSOs, and they were surprised to hear that we had spoken to the Vatican, USA, and the many European countries etc. We explained that many radio amateurs were now aware of Banaba Island, even if it was only a fleeting "You are 59, QSL?" They gave us two island get-togethers, one organized by the Protestant church and the other by the Catholic church. In each case they welcomed us to their island and asked if we enjoyed our stay. There was plenty to eat and plenty of discussion.

Finally it was time to go, and as always in these situations, beams, antennas, and so on, all came down quicker than they had been put up. Rigs, cables, keyers, and equipment soon all packed away. Finally, in terms of amateur radio, Banaba Island was silent again. The remaining food, fuel, and other items no longer needed were given to the island. A small gift of tobacco, flour, sugar, etc., was also given as a token of our thanks, for their hospitality to two crazy radio amateurs, in the name of DXing. The "Banaba Taxi," courtesy of the Catholic Mission duly appeared, and soon all our gear was loaded and we headed for the wharf.

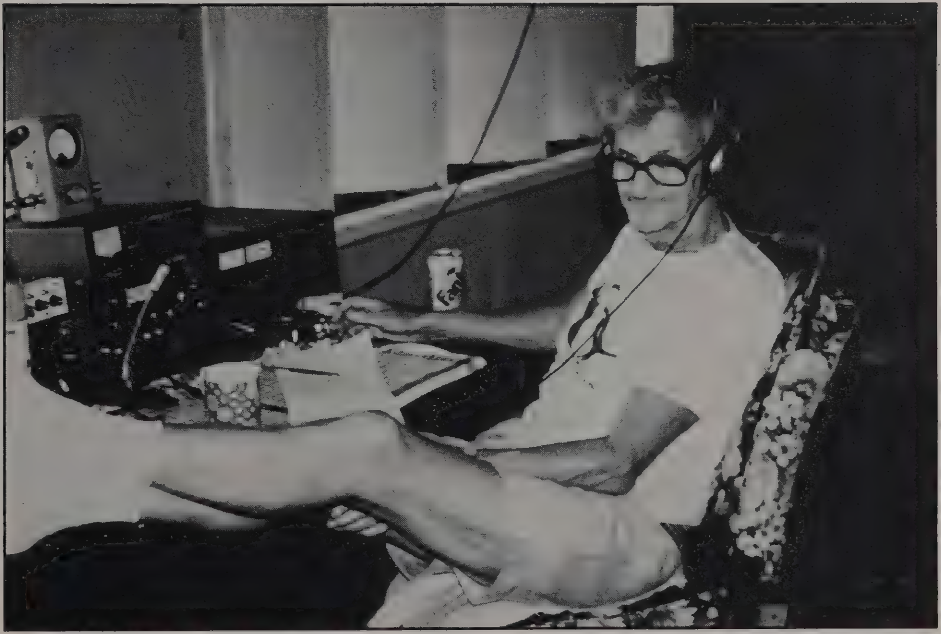
A couple of hours later we were safely back on board the "Nei Mataburo." After an uneventful trip back, we tied up in Tarawa late in the afternoon of Thursday. Bob and I were due to leave Tarawa the next morning. The ship was very late, as a result Bob and I had a mad scramble to meet our travel schedule out of Tarawa. At around four in the afternoon I finally cleared my beam from the airport customs. These and other items were left for future use. There was much to do, equipment was returned to Willy, Mote, and Retite. Soon we were back in the hotel ready for the flight early next morning. Later Bob and I celebrated the apparent success of the DXpedition.

I headed back for Norfolk Island, as arranged, to catch the MV Island DXpedition (4J1FS) which I had missed previously during my T31JS trip. Bob and I parted company on Tuvalu where he stayed for about one week.

Thanks are due to the following: Rabi Council and Banaba Island Council, OIC Banaba. Home Affairs Department, Director of Telecomms Licensing all at Bairiki, Tarawa. To the people of Banaba Island for their hospitality. To CQ Magazine Japan, JA1ACB, JA1BK, and many other individual contributors. To T30AC, T30MT, T30BY, etc. To HIDXA for all logistics, power, fuel, permission, licensing, food, travel Tarawa-Banaba and return etc.

Thanks are also due to the members of the H.I.DX.A. Club for their considerable financial support which enabled this DXpedition to take place.

And finally to Bob KN6J for his considerable support during the DXpedition.



Jim Smith VK9NS operating CW as T33JS.

The DX Magazine QSL INFO

QSL Notes

- QSL the August P40MA operation to Mark Allen KJ7X. Putting the operator name (Mark, Don, or Bill) on the card and envelope will speed response.
- Dave Wilson N4DW has a new address: Route 1, Box 11A, East Burke VT 05832. Dave handles cards for OA4DW, ZP5XDW, ZP5XGG, N4PW/CE3, and 9L1GG.
- Doug Woolley ZP6XDW asks for QSLs direct to P.O.Box 73, Caaupe, Paraguay.
- Mike Smedal 5B4TI still has his logs and QSL cards from his A7XD and A71AD operation of 1980-1985, and is pleased to QSL: P.O.Box 7121, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- QSL the contest operations of RQ7W, EU1Q, U2QRI, club station UQ1GWW, and DXpedition UR9/UQ1GWW to Valery P. Sincov, P.O.Box 50, Riga, Latvia 226010, USSR.
- Al Kovalyov UB5ILA now handles QSLs for Cuban stations CO7HC, CM5JE, and CM5VF, via P.O.Box 30, Donetsk, Ukraine 340000, USSR. He says one IRC gets surface mail return, and two IRCs get an airmail response, but he is one of the Russians who prefer US$1.
- Peter T77V says his new QSL manager for Europe, Africa, and Asia is IS0QDV. The rest of the world can continue to QSL via W3HNK.
- The American Amateur Radio Club of Korea says they are knee deep in QSLs for departed HL9 US military personnel in Korea. If you held an HL9 call, or know of someone who did, send the call, dates of operation, and current address to the club's address: Dependent Mail Section, P.O.Box 153, APO San Francisco CA 96206. Meanwhile Dennis Wood KT8X says DXers can QSL his HL9USA operation in the 1989 ARRL SSB test via the same address.
- QSL the Argentine contest call of AY6D via Carlos Alberto Carbonell LU7DEE/LU7ET, P.O.Box 36, 1834 Temperley, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Although the Reseau des Emetteurs Francais (REF, the French national radio society) no longer forwards QSLs to non-members, the rival Union des Radio Clubs will send QSLs to non-members. Their address is 71 rue Orfila, F-75020, Paris, France.

Direct QSL Addresses

5Z4BI	Bill Nesbitt, Box 149222, Coral Gables, FL 33114
5Z4FN	Box 44765, Nairobi, Kenya
5Z4FO	KB4EKY, Box 232, Kalona, IA 52247
6Y5HN	Box 135, Kingston 15, Jamaica
BY4RSA	Box 538, Nanjing, People's Republic of China
D44BS	PO Box 101, Praia, Cape Verde
EL7X	Box 538, Monrovia, Liberia
TA2AO	Osman, Box 67, CP 81532, Istanbul
TF6MM	Thor, Box 24, Hoefn, Iceland
TG0FRACAP	POB 115, Guatemala City, Guatemala
UF6DZ	Valen, Box 15, Tbilisi, Georgia 380002, USSR
YB44RI	Box 171, Sorong 98401 Indonesia
ZB2IW	Bill, Box 534, Gibraltar
ZD8PJ	POB #3, Ascension Island

QSL Help Wanted

- VE1ACK still seeks information on **YI3BZL**, June, 1952, who said to QSL via the RSGB. He's also looking for word on the **VP8BUO** operation from Dec., 1988, who said to QSL via G0IHK.
- KE7X is looking for QSL information on **TN8AH** in March, 1983.
- W8WOJ dug out some 20-year-old logbooks, and needs help with **VS9AAA** from Feb., 1964 (no answer from G3NAC); **VS9ARS** July, 1967 (G3TXH didn't reply); **VQ9JW** Nov., 1967 (G3ONU didn't QSL); and **FR7ZL/T** July 1968 (neither FR5ZL nor FR7ZG answered.)
- UA1OIZ needs help with **D21AA**, 1976, **ET2II**, 1983, **YA1DD**, 1979, and **ZS1ANT**, 1980, who said to QSL via ZE1EQ. Any assistance?
- NX7U needs help with **VP2AV**, Feb., 1980; **HM1PW**, Nov., 1980 (manager JA0BFZ not in US *Callbook*); **TF3GCN**, Dec., 1981; **9H5YT**, Nov., 1982 (no answer from VE2RG); and **LX2FT**, July, 1983.
- W5BCB is looking for a direct address for **UA2AO**.
- K1TG had two cards rejected by the Zimbabwe bureau: **Z21CA/N** (Mar., 1985), and **Z22JS** (1985-87). Anyone have QSL routes?
- **FR7RA** used notoriously-bad QSLer FR5DX as manager; anyone successful at confirming this prefix?
- WB0LJC seeks a QSL route for **3V8P** from CQWW SSB last year. (Legitimate Tunisian stations are rare these days!)
- WA6KAA wonders if **7Q7BC** from June 1988 or **9G1PP** from May 1988 are legitimate, and if they ever QSLed.
- WA6VNO is looking for a QSL route for **GI0KOW** from WPX SSB this year.
- K3ZO seeks QSL info on the following stations: CU3LC, C61ZY, EL1J, J28EN, J6LQB, KC6IN, NH6D/KH3, KG4OM, KX6WS, OD5MA, S83B, VQ9DJ, VS6AP, YJ8PE, ZB2IW, and ZY0TI. Any help?

Q·S·L M·A·N·A·G·E·R·S

DX Station	QSL To:
0T6C	TI0RC
3B9FR	F6FNU
3D2HL	DJ6JC
3D2RJ	ZL1BQD
3D2SI	DJ6SI
3D2VT(CW)	DJ6SI
3D2WV	DK2WV
4K1DV	UZ1CXA
4K1F	UA1DJ
4L0X	UA0IAP
4L1QRQ	UW3AA
4N4MX	YU4EXA
4S7NMR	KZ8Y
4Z4AB	K3STM
5N0MRD	DL3KCE
5R8JD	F6FNU
5T5CK	DL1HH
5V7DP	KA1DE
5W1IF	JA3RCT
5W1IK	JA3RCT
5W1IL	JA3RCT
7P8DP	W8JBI
8P9AF	VE3LGC
9H3KL	HA8UB
9J2BO	W6ORD
9M2HB	AA6BB
9M2SG	DL1DA
9M2ZZ	N4RMF (89CB)
9M6HF	WE2K/KE2HB
9M8STA	9M2AX
9Q5BG	F5JT
9Q5DX	KQ3S
9Q5XX	KC4NC
9V0YB	OH1NYP
9V0YC	K9EL
9X5AA	W4FRU
9X5KP	W4IEN
BV2A	K2CM
BV2FA	DJ9ZB
BZ1DX	BY1QH
BZ4RA	BY4RSA
BZ4RCC	BY4WNG
BZ4RDX	BY4WNG
BZ4ROM	BY4RSA
C30LBS	IK1CJT
CE0ICD	CE3ESS
CE0MTY	CE3ESS
CE0XDX	CE3ESS
CG5ZX	VE5ZX
CN8FC	WA4QMQ
CN8VE	VE6AHT
CO2VG	I0WDX
CT3EU	G3PFS
CY0DXX	VE1AL
CY9SPI	VE1YX
EA8/OH2BH	OH2RF
EC9JB	EA9IB
ED5TIA	EA3CUU
EI8EM	W2ORA
EK2RR	UQ1GWW
EL2WK	G3OCA
F89/FR4FD	F6FYA
FG/FD1OMP	F6FNU
FG89/FD1OMP	F6FNU
FH5EF	F6EZV
FK0BM	F6BHX
FM4EE	F1HVT
FM4FE	FD1NCZ
FM5CD	F5VU
FM5WD	W3HNK
FO0FB	WB6GFJ
FO0MGZ	FD1MGZ/F1MGZ
FY0EK	DK9MI
FY4EP	FD1LXZ
FY5YE	W5JLU
GU0MCW	F2CW
HC5K	KT1N
HC8JG	WA6ZEF
HI3JH	F6FNU
HI9UD	HI3AMF
HL5BDS	HL1ASS
HL9BK	KC9V
HR1LW	JA1LW
HS0YDY	JH7FQK
HT3A	SM0KCR
HZ1AB	K8PYD
IJ7ET	I7OYT
J28CW	FC1EPO
J37ZY	NS8G
J52US	WA8JOC
J73A	W3HNK
JW6XGA	LA6XGA
JX3PF	LA3PF
JX7DFA	LA2KD
JY5HH	DJ9ZB
JY8GI	ND0F
K4SXT/DU3	WB4KZW
K9BO/Z2	N9BHW
KH0AC	K7ZA
KN0E/KH3	K9UIY
LX1RQ	SP5SJD
N2HNQ/KH8	JH4IFF
NY6M/KH2	NY6M
OD5PL	HB9CRV
OH0/W6EUF	W6EUF
OH0AC	OH2NM
OY/DF2PI	DF2PI
P29CG	WB9SVK (89CB)
P29PL	VK9NS
P29RE	KE0KR
P40MA	WJ7X
PA0GAM/ST2	PA0GIN
PJ7/W5ASP	W5ASP
PY0FF	W9VA
R1Z	UA1ZX
R4PWY	UZ4PWY
RA0AD/JT	RA9YD
RT6U/UJ8JW	RT4UA
S01DX	EA3AOC
S79EHT	G4IRG
S79MX	HB9MX
SO9IW	FO5IW
SU1EE	WA9INK
SU1EK	W2QUV
SV0EK	N1DSC
T30BC	ZL2QW
T30XDK	GM4CKM
T32AB	N7YL
T32IO	AH6IO
T32PO	NH6PO
T5GG	I2MQP
T5YD	F6AJA
TA1AO	TA1AZ
TA3/DL5XX	DL4BBO
TA7/KU0J	KU0J
TF6CW	TF3CW
TF7/DL2SCQ	DL6DK
TJ/IK1JLL	I1SQN
TL8HB	WB8TGP
TL8JL	K4UTE

The
W6GO/K6HHD
QSL Manager
List

The **W6GO/K6HHD List** is a monthly publication listing over 5,000 active DX stations and their QSL routes. We update these listings continuously so that you have the very latest QSL routings available. All those new countries you worked in last month's contest are probably listed in this month's QSL Manager List. In addition, we regularly have hints and tips on QSLing more effectively, for better returns. And, we let you know when the station turns out to be a PIRATE, so that you won't waste postage. All this plus regular updates about life in the O'Brien DX Farm, how can you resist? Just send your name, callsign, and address with a check for $20 to start your subscription. If you are still not convinced, send us a postcard with your name and address and we'll send you a recent issue as a sample. Once you use it, you will find it indispensable.

The W6GO/K6HHD List
P.O.Box 700-D
Rio Linda CA 95673

DX Station	QSL To:	DX Station	QSL To:	DX Station	QSL To:	DX Station	QSL To:
TL8RM	F6FNU	V63JC	KC6JC	VP8BUB	G4YLO	XX9JN	KU9C
TL8SC	K4UTE	V85AM	V85CA	VQ9RF	WB9NYG	XX9KA	KC9V
TL8WD	DL8CM	VB4GV	VE4GV	VR6MW	NZ9E	XX9SW	KU9C
TR8SA	F6FNU		(89CB)	VR6TC	W6HS	YJ8JS	N4EVS
TT8CW	F2CW	VE8VFC	VE7HQ	VS6CT	KA6V	YK1AA	DJ9ZB
TU2PA	KE0LS	VK0AE	VK2DEJ	VU2TTC	W8XM	YS1MAE	WN5K
TZ0MAR	DJ5RT	VK0GC	VK9NS	VU2ZAP	W3HNK	YY5LB	YV5AJ
TZ6VV	N0BLD	VP2EXX	KC8JH	VY9CC	VE3KE	YZ0U	YU2BHI
UA0BEZ/UA1O	RA3YA	VP2MAM	VE3IKM	WA4ZEL/JW	WA4ZEL	YZ4Z	YU4EXA
UB5MAL/UA1O	UZ1PWA	VP2MDS	VE3NN	WB8ZYC/KH3	KD0FZ	ZD8XX	W4FRU
V29OA	W7KNT	VP2VM	KW1K	XE2MX	K6VNX	ZF2NZ	KA2UHS
V47RF	WA2SPL	VP5HL	WN5K	XF4F	WA3HUP	ZS8MI	ZS6PT
V63AP	KC6JC	VP5JM	W3HNK	XT2CW	DK7PE	ZY0TX	FP2BNQ

QSL Cards Received

From Managers

Card	Manager	Time
3C0A	TR0A	3 YRS
3D2CR	DJ9ON	3 MOS
3D2VV	OH2BAZ	6 WKS
3W0A	W4FRU	3.5 MO
3W8DX		9 MOS
5V7DP		3 WKS
5V7TM	F6FNU	2 MOS
5WIHM	JH4IFF	10 DYS
6Z2DK	G3OCA	9 WKS
7P8EG		10 DYS
9H3IE	PA0BEA	14 WKS
9H3KL	HA8UB	3 WKS
9L/PA0GAM	PA0GIN	2.5 MO
BV2FA	DJ9ZB	3 MOS
C53FV	G3YMM	5 MOS
C9MKT	SM5KDM	2 WKS
CY9SPI	VE1YX	2 WKS!
EW2C	UC1AWC	4 MOS
FG5R	W7EJ	5 MOS
FH/DL7FT	DL7FT	6 WKS
FO0CW/M		5 MOS
FO0EXU/M		5 MOS
FR0VD	OH5VD	5 MOS
FR1MCK/FO	FE1JCN	1 YR
FS5R	W7EJ	3 MOS
FT5ZB	FD1JMH	1.7 YR
HZ1AB	K8PYD	3 WKS
HB0/DA1WA		3 MOS
HS0YDY	JA7FQK	6 WKS
IW4BU	I4IKW	10 MOS
IY0ONU	I5KKW	1 MOS
J79T		7 WKS
JT0TJ	HA1KSO	18 MOS
JX1UG	LA5NM	
JX7DFA	LA2KD	4 MOS
JY9SR	W3FYT	10 WKS
OH0AC		
P40P	N1CIX	15 WKS
RL8PYL	UL7PAE	4 MOS
S79M	JI3ERV	5 MOS
S79MX	HB9MX	1 MOS
S79T	JI3ERV	5 MOS
S9AGD	SM0AGD	2 WKS
SU1EK	W2QVV	1 MOS
T28RW	ZL1AMO	3.5 MO
T30RA	KN6J	
T33JS	VK9NS	6 WKS
T5MF	VK9NS	3 MOS
TL8RM	F6FNU	7 WKS
TZ0MAR	DJ5RT	3 WKS
TZ6VV		6 MOS
UI8/UZ4FWD	UZ4FWD	3 MOS
UJ2K/UA9OA	UA9OBA	10 MOS
V7AA	PT7AA	3.5 WK
V85DA	VK1DA	
VK0AE		2 WKS
VK9ZW	NM2L	6 MOS
VP2M/WC0W	WC0W	3 MOS
VQ9DM	N5DM	2 MOS
VU2GI	N2HOS	
XX9CT	KA6V	1 WK
XX9SW	KU9C	2 WKS
YJ8JS	N4EVS	2 WKS
ZD8XX	W4FRU	1 MOS
ZK2AA	OH2BAZ	6 WKS
ZS8MI	ZS6PT	
ZX5C	PY5EG	4.5MOS

QSLs Received Direct

DX Station		Time
3B8FQ		6 WKS
3D2CR		4 MOS
3DA0AH		1 MOS
4U1VIC		2 WKS
9K2CS		1 MOS
9K2DR		1 MOS
A24RE		5 WKS
BY1QH		12 DYS
BY4RB		6 MOS
BY5HZ		19 DYS
BY9GA		12 MOS
BZ4ROM		1 MOS
CE0DFL		1 MOS
CE0GHO		1 MOS
CE0ICD		1 YR
CN2AQ		1 MOS
CP2PAX		1 YR
DF2UU/KH8		7 MOS
EA9IB		1 MOS
FH8CB		1 MOS
FO5LZ		7 WKS
FP89DX		3 WKS
FS5T		10 WKS
GJ3YHV		1 MOS
HB0LL		2 WKS
KC4USV		2 MOS
KC6JC		
KH2/NY6M		
KH6IJ		2 WKS
RB8M		4 MOS
RL8PYL	CBA	1 MOS
RV0YF		9 WKS
S92LB		5 WKS
SV9TJ		2 MOS
T33JS		3.5 MO
TK5IU		3 WKS
TT8CW		2 MOS
UA9XK		3 MOS
UC5/UA6ECS		6 WKS
UG6GAW		3 MOS
UJ9XWA		2 MOS
UT3UA		14 WKS
V63AP		2 WKS
VK9NL		3 MOS
VR6KY		4 MOS
W6KG/UJ9JWA		3.5 MO
Y29AB		9 WKS
YI1BGD		1 MOS
YK1AO		
ZF1DC		1 MOS
ZS1IS		3.5 WK
ZS8MI		2 MOS

Via The Bureau

Station	Time
5H1HK	
8J3ITU	3 MOS
9K2RA	8.5 MO
EA8XS	9 MOS
FS5T	
HP1/K0KJ	
JT1BQ	8.5 MO
LS4CSI	1 YR
SV0GM	
TE5T	
UF6VZ	10 MOS

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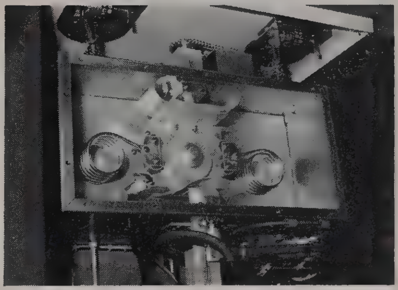

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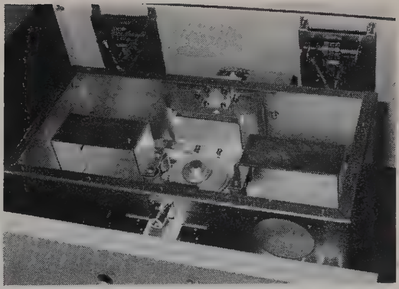
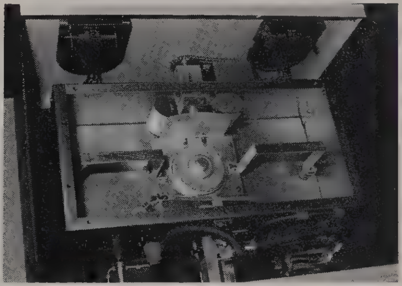


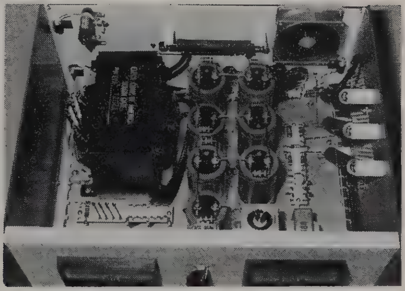
CE-1000-3B (2m)

CE-2500 E

CE-5000 E



CE-1000-3C (75cm)



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The DX Magazine REVIEW

The Total Ham Plus

A Computer Software Review of Remware's Logging And Reporting Program

by Paul Hansen AE6H

If you are looking for a simple, versatile logging and QSO management program, then take a look at **The Total Ham Plus** from Remware Software. It is a very capable program for the general user and can be fashioned into a good DXCC or WAZ record system. When it comes to QSO and QSL management systems the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) principle applies to me.

The Total Ham Plus comes with an excellent spiral-bound manual. It is easy to read and is organized to match the program's menu order. The screen representations in the instruction book are identical to the actual displays and you can get a good feel for this program without having to boot it up.

Installation is no easier or harder than other software packages I've tried. I keep saying this but, follow the instructions and you will be okay. Another thing I keep saying is that this level of ham radio software is really unsuitable for a floppy based system. It will work, but it is torturously slow with the disk drive spooling up for each entry. Get a hard drive or set up a ramdisk to get the full enjoyment out of this or any other logging package.

Starting off is easy except for one part. Boot the program and start answering the questions on the screen. You will input information about your computer's configuration such as monitor and drive types. Where you may have difficulty is in setting up your printer parameters. The program uses ASCII escape sequences. These are always defined in your printer manual, but are seldom used by many of us appliance operators because most of our application software uses other types of input to control our printers. Take it easy. The manual explains what to look for and what to do adequately and once all this is done you will not have to deal with this screen again.

Now you're ready to use the program. From the main menu screen, Logging will be your first choice. You will then be presented with several types of log inputs such as regular logging or contest logging. Regular logging is your normal, everyday log sheet in vertical format rather than horizontal. That takes getting used to but the data is arranged logically and the fields are easy to fill. The sequence of logging is simple and quick. There is an allowance for checking the entire entry before writing it to disk and all fields can be edited from this screen.

For DXers there is a field asking for the QSL manager's callsign. I like that. At this point in my DXCC quest I am logging about 90% of my QSOs with QSL managers. Not only is there a space for this information, there is also a space to flag the route as being via the bureau, direct, or via a manager. Later in the program, in another menu, you can retrieve QSL manager information by simply entering a callsign. This is a really useful feature and as you get over 250 countries confirmed, you will find out just how useful it is.

Another well-designed field is the QSL wanted entry. An entry here controls QSL label printing and saves time later. Also, if you enter a "yes" here it means that you really want this card. The difference is that an "all-time new one" is really wanted; so is a new mode. But, a band country might not be so critical to your needs and can be pursued less zealously.

In the regular logging screen there is a function key menu to branch into other utilities associated with logging. They are self explanatory for the most part and prove to be useful during low pressure logging when quick entries are not required. Three of them deserve special attention. They are Beam Headings, Checklists, and Info Screens.

Checklists are the most useful and show how well thought out this program is. Checklists can be entered from the logging screen or from the main menu. They present the user with options to display status of all your operating milestones. At a glance you can call up country totals by band or mode or both. The same is available for WAZ, WAC, and WAS. The search speed is naturally based upon the size of your log file but it is quick enough not to cause undue delay. If you want, this information can be printed for a hard copy record which is great if you happen to be tracking multiple awards (and who isn't?)

The Information Screen selection takes you to the Information menu. In it, you can view a rather unique feature of **The Total Ham Plus** system. It has a list of International Callsign Allocations. These are not just common prefixes but the actual ranges of ITU assigned prefixes just like on page 4A in the International Callbook. During contests with all those special prefixes, you won't be the one asking what a P34 is (Cyprus).

Also in the Information menu is a selection to allow you to define your authorized and unauthorized frequencies. The logging program does not check this list during entry so it is for call up reference only. Perhaps a routine to ensure your log entries are inside your authorized sub-bands would be useful but I suspect a loss in execution speed would result.

The Beam Heading function is available from the logging screen. It displays beam headings both short and long for countries called by name or prefix. Displaying this information during logging operations is often useful because you can get a callsign loaded before you actually QSO and call up beam headings for reference.

Here, I saw an important omission in this program. Beam headings are stored in a file built and edited from the Beam Heading List option in the main menu. The file is complete and correct for the software manufacturer's location; not the end user's. What is worse, it does not calculate new headings from your station's location. The file is simply a list of short and long path bearings and ranges that must be edited individually by prefix to be of use to the new owner. This tedious task could be eliminated by including a Great Circle bearing and range calculation subroutine that would fill this file automatically with new data based on the registered owner's geographic coordinates.

From the logging menu a selection for contest logging is available. It is very similar to regular logging except it is abbreviated in form. After the contest name, starting band, and mode are defined and you're off and running. Duplicates are checked as you go and I like the simplicity of the data entry. Exchanges are automatically entered and if you need it there is space for a special exchange. Contest file updates are included in your regular logging so you are not faced with integrating contest QSOs into your regular log later.

One last logging function is allowed. It again is unique and well thought out. It is the Net Logging mode. Now, I make no secret of my low regard for DX net operations but there are many other nets that perform valuable services. Sometimes, keeping track of the comings and goings of them is extremely difficult. Net logging sets up files relating to each different net you may operate and allows basic callsign entry into the net file. If you have contacted that station in the past on that net all previous contacts will be displayed. I think the original idea of this was to eliminate duplicate contacts the same as in the contest log, however, I can see how you could impress the net members with your "memory" of callsigns, names, and QTH's.

The Total Ham Plus features everything you will need in log book editing functions. You will find them under the Log Maintenance screen. I was pleased with the capability to edit the log by either call, date, or month. That saves precious time while performing log housekeeping. The ADD To Log Manually routine is where you would go if you were trying to build your data base from your old paper log book. That's my favorite part!

The printouts from the Log Maintenance screen come in two forms. The entire log is printed out in a complete and detailed format. Or the format can be identical to the familiar ARRL format on a single line.

Regular printing functions are run from the Detailed Log Printout Options menu. Your log can be sorted and printed by date, by month, since the last printing, or the whole thing. The last printing and the whole log can be sorted and printed in callsign order also. The inclusion of callsign order is a handy idea

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for updating external record systems or other programs.

The actual printouts are simple to follow but sometimes tend to squeeze information a bit close together. After a little familiarization I experienced no problems with the printout formats.

Equally as important as printing, is the QSL Handling Screen. A good system here will save many hours. These routines are quite good. They are also easy to keep up with, which is important to me. The QSL checklists are convenient and the actual labels are clean and straight forward. Of special note is that here is when that QSL really needed flag comes into play. Remember setting that to "yes" earlier? Well, if you did it right you can get two lists from this routine. One will be those most wanted. The other is a list of all QSOs for which a QSL has not yet been sent. That allows you to prioritize your mailings in case you have a limited supply of funds or IRCs. All QSL management updates are entered into the log files automatically; another time saver.

If you have participated in a contest and logged it with **The Total Ham Plus**, you will a be pleased at its contest log maintenance ability. Any contest log can be edited and printed either entirely or in summary form. The main log data base is not updated from this menu. It can be edited from the regular log editing screens. This may seem like a duplication of effort but I think it will turn out to be the better way. Mostly, the editing done in a contest log is just to clean it up for submission to a contest committee and these changes are unnecessary and often unwanted in the main data base.

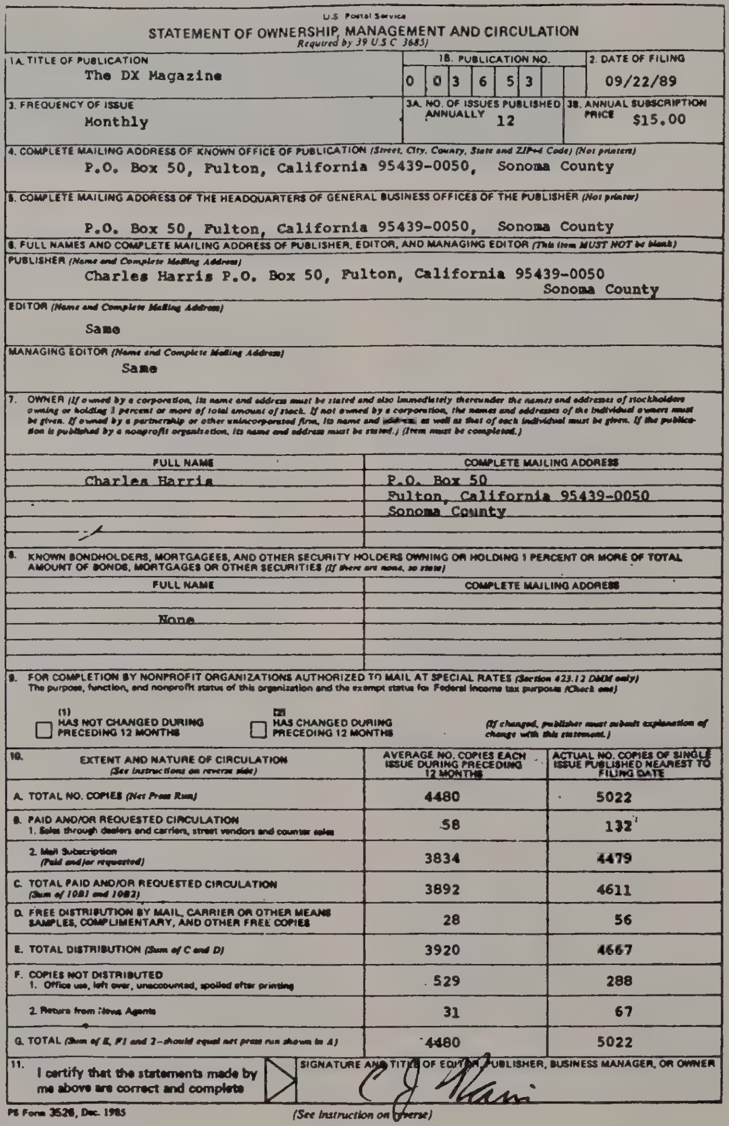
About the only thing not yet covered are the various checklists available. These are simple sorts and checks of your award progress. There is a little something for everybody. Listings and counts can be made for DXCC countries, states, counties, ITU and CQ zones, and continents. What more could anyone want from a logging program?

Well, there are a couple of things I thought of right away. For example, my version, V 3.0, listed only the 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meter bands as options but allowed any HF band. I was initially afraid that the WARC bands and 160 meters were not trackable. That was wrong, they are. What isn't trackable is any mode other than SSB or CW. RTTY'ers will have to work in one of those modes.

While running the program, I was testing the contest log portion and I found myself locked into it several times before I realized I had to assign a file name before I was offered the option to return to a previous menu. Another place I got into trouble was trying any print routine without my printer turned on. (I forgot!) I got an error message and had to warm reset to get going again. I don't like to get locked up even because of my own mistakes.

I like having an offset from my computer's clock to UTC. Every logging program should have that built in as does this one. Almost all the zone screens and printouts call the CQ zones by the name of DX zones. Credit should be given to CQ for their zone scheme. I think they are known as CQ zones world wide so I am more comfortable with CQ zone terminology.

Every function in this program comes with a dedicated mode wherein you stay in a screen until you ask to escape except the Edit Beam Heading menu. Unfortunately, editing the beam headings is not a fun task as previously described but, to be dropped back to the Heading menu



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and then have to scroll one space after each entry makes it even more unpleasant.

These minor flaws not withstanding, this is a very good program. **The Total Ham Plus** is logically presented and it is very easy to operate. In fact most of the program can be operated intuitively. Search and sort is reasonably painless when using a hard drive or ramdisk. On a floppy it is not nearly as friendly.

The program is available from REMWARE, PO Box 1566, Manassas, VA 22110. It retails for $59.95 plus $2.00 shipping. Seriously consider **The Total Ham Plus** if you're looking for a good general-purpose logging and management system.

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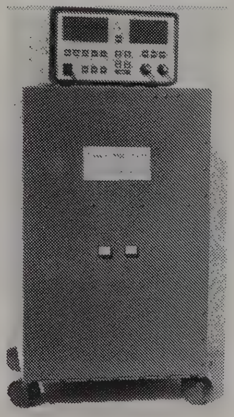

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6 Meter News

Ray Clark - K5ZMS

As I write this early in September, I have been receiving occasional reports of activity into Europe and Africa from areas along the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. Es activity, possibly connected to F2, has brought some continued contacts into these areas by those who have been on the alert for such activity. The same thing applies to the Western seaboard of the U.S. There have been reports of continued activity into the South Pacific from Californian stations. Since 28.885 MHz has been propped out much of the time, I have not been able to keep tabs with the activity. That, coupled with holding down two jobs, has kept me from being active on the coordination frequency. I only have a few specific dates of this activity.

On the 25th, at 0200Z, I am told that the VK4's were into Shep W7HAH in Montana. That is all I know about that one. Joel KG6JDX/6 says they had a fair amount of activity into the South Pacific over the summer period. KH6's report getting into the same area off and on also. The KH6 50.057 MHz beacon is reported getting into Europe again. ZS6WB and ZS6XL are both reported to have recently worked YJ8GP at 0800Z via long path. J52US is still active on the band, not having left that country for his new assignment as of this writing. There is already a Sierra Leone station on Six Meters I am told.

The 28th, 29th, and 30th of August seems to have been productive days, as was the 18th. LU's and others in South America were reported being worked in W2, W4, W5 land, around the Great Lakes area and into VE2 & VE3's. On the 29th, the big thrill here was an opening to HP3XUH around 2200-0030Z with most of us in this area getting a contact with Cliff. It is very rare to get into Panama from here. We were all very grateful for the contact. On the 29th of August, ZS6WB worked JA's, and 7X also. Pat Rose W5OZI reports working LU8AHW, 8MBL, LU3EX, HP3XUH, and OA8ABT all on the 29th. On the 30th he worked LU9EHF, LU8DIO, and LU3EX. Similar activity is reported being worked. This occurred during the 2200-2400z time frame.

Who's on Six?

There will be two A22 stations on Six soon, one is R.J. van Zeeventer A22RA, who has bought a TV-506 through SMIRK. The other is A22BW who is being provided a SWAN 250C through ZS6WB! On Sept. 8, ZC4MK worked SV's, ZC4MK, and 9H1's! Hal is also getting 3DA0AU geared up with an IC-551D. Hal reports that ZC4MK has said they might soon be getting a limited part of the band to operate. Hal reports 9H's, SV's, and G's worked on the 13th of August. 7P8DP is reported to be getting on Six.

New Countries on Six

It was just reported to me that ON Belgium and LX Luxembourg have both been given permission to operate Six Meters. Those are the only details I have so far. At this rate, all of Europe will be on Six Meters before the F2 gets started good! I know of some Eastern European block countries that also are hopeful of being active on Six this time, but am not at liberty to say anything just yet. All ZC4 Cyprus stations have permission to work Six Meters effective 24 August, 1989!

The Jimmy Treybig W6JKV Fall DXpeditions

At this time, Jimmy is working on firming up plans to visit the Eastern Caroline Islands during 22 Oct.-2 November. He believes this may be an excellent time to give the U.S. a good shot at this part of the Pacific. Following that trip will be a jaunt to that western bulge of Africa that has proven to be so productive over the years. His C5 Gambia operation, the J52 operation, and the EL Liberian operation of last cycle all indicate this is an excellent area in Africa to go to. His plans are not firmed up yet, but he is looking at the possibility of operating from EA9 Ceuta, EA8 Canary Islands, or CT3 Madeira Islands. Other locations on the Western bulge of Africa might be considered. The best advise I can give you is to keep in touch with Jimmy or others on 28.885 MHz to get the finalized details of his trips. A lot of details are to be worked out yet, as I write this. I just spoke to him on 8 Sept. and he is still working on the details.

The June, 1989, St Martin DXpedition

Ted Goldthorpe WA4VCC reports on their Six Meter efforts during their DXpedition. Their first day there, June 8th got them a 2-hour opening into the U.S., from 1230-1430Z. This amounted to 40 QSO's. They figured it caught many of us at work, but it looked good for the rest of their trip until a major flare that same day wiped out the activity. They made only 18 QSO's after that opening. Their Six Meter total was 58 QSO's and 12 countries. They worked 10 W1's, 13 W2's, 6 W3's, 13 W4's, and 1 each in W5, W8, and W9 land. Their OSCAR station was a big hit around the world with over 300 QSO's and of course, the low bands were great. But, the main purpose of the trip was good old Six Meters...yet the God's of propagation were not with them. They still had a wonderful time. They wish to thank ICOM USA for all the gear, and say that the IC-575H is one super radio.

Turkish Six Meter Event

I hope many of you got to work TA4/G3SDL from Sept. 29-Oct. 6 while he was there on a trip. He did have a permit from the Turkish authorities, which G4UPS has a copy of, so he **was** legal. I think it is another feather in our warbonnet that he was able to get Turkish permission to operate Six Meters! That is amazing, considering that the last two times I lived in Turkey, we lived in fear of having our radio equipment confiscated if we used it. So, I listened only while in Turkey.

DXpeditions

JA2NQC was to operate from Eastern Caroline Island, now called the Federated States of Micronesia, as KC6MS in early September. He also planned trips to Saipan, Guam, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, or Lord Howe Island during this trip. If you worked him, QSL to Mine Sugiyama JA2NQC, Box 5, Ninomiya, 259-01, Japan.

American Samoa was to be active on Six by Mitsumata Uto JH1IFF, as N2HNQ/KH8, with Hiro KH8/JA4RED. If you worked them, QSL to: Mitsumata Uto, 681 Tatsukawa, Sanyo, Akaiwa, Okayama 709-08, Japan. QSL Hiro to: Okayama DX Club, P.O. Box 49, Okayama Central, 700-91, Japan, or either via the JA Buro.

If you worked 9H3EH on Six from Malta Sept. 21-Oct. 19th, QSL to: Claus Floesser DL2GBT, Herrenstr. 21, D-7550, Rastatt, West Germany or via the DL Buro.

New G Distance Record Set

The 24 June, 1989 contact (apparently via Es) between Ted Collins G4UPS and Dave Strawe, Washington State has set a new G to W distance record, it seems. Congratulations to both!

Beacons

The OH1SIX beacon is said to be on 50.025 MHz. The TF6MM beacon is on 50.055 MHz now.

Scatter Shooting

The Southwest Ohio DX Association will be on St Lucia as J6DX for the CQWW CW Test. They might be on Six. They need some more operators. Contact W8OK or N9AG.

Solar Cycle 22

We are about to embark on what is being predicted as what might be the biggest cycle in recorded history. If predictions come true, Six Meters will be the band to be on. The best advise I can give you is to be on 28.885 MHz and Six Meters as much as you can over the next six months. Keep the Six Meter rig turned on and on 50.110 MHz at all times when you are at home. Call often. Use 28.885 MHz to let you know where the band is open to. Pay as much attention as you can, for we will probably not see conditions like this again in our lifetime. Good DX to all of you!

The Carolina DX Association St. Martin DXpedition team.

Some Final Thoughts on the 1989 Es Season

According to the record keeping of Pat Dyer WA5IYX, the month of August brought us, in Central Texas, 915 minutes of Es activity. This is considered to be a pretty good amount of Es activity for an August. The months of May-August produced 69 days of openings, a total of 1,420 different Es events, for a total of 7,245 minutes of Es activity. This makes this year the fourth best of the 80's. Not bad for a year during the peak of a solar cycle when Es activity traditionally is lower! The August average flux was 218. The smoothed flux as of February, 1989 is 194. These are the highest numbers since 1982. The flux has again peaked over 300, recently hitting 305. This was the fifth time, as of this writing that the flux has topped the 300 mark during this solar cycle. Cycle 21 had 9 days, and if this activity keeps going, we will far surpass that. By the time you read this, we should be in full swing on the Fall/Winter F2 season, which should rival anything we have seen in the history of Six Meters, if current projections are correct.

DX Club Notes

Venezuela DX Club, Western Washington DX Club, North Alabama DX Club South Florida DX Club

by Lyle Meek WW6F

Once again we are pleased to hear from another of our DX clubs in a foreign county. The following is a letter from Pablo YV5IYB of the Venezuela DX Club:

"The Venezuela DX Club was founded on April 25 of 1984 by a group of hams who have the DX and International contests as their principal activity. These were Joe (YV5ANT), Rey (YV5AMH), Oscar (YV5ANF), Bill (YV5ANE), Mike (YV5BQB), Hermes (YV5DFI), Napo (YV5BNR), Oscar (YV5HOT), Rafe (YV5ESN). and Ruben (YV5ANE).

"YV5ANT is President; YV5ANF is Vice President; YV5BD is Secretary and YC5IVB is Organization Secretary.

"The main objectives of the Club are to group all the hams of the country who are devoted to the DX and Contests activities, to help in the development of the radio communications technologies, the radio experimentation and investigation and to promote the relationship and cooperation between similar institutions around the world.

"Actually, the Venezuela DX Club has been publishing a twice per month DX bulletin for two years, which is free for the members and cost only 12 dollars per year for non-members in Venezuela.

"Also, the YV DX Club has acquired a 5,000 square meters terrain in a town 2 hours from Caracas and is looking to build a small house and to install the 6 monobander antennas already bought by the Club. This site will be available to the locals and foreign hams who are interested in using it for international contest competitions.

"The Club has been assigned with several calls by the Ministry of Transport and Communications in order to cover the whole county. These calls are: YV1A (YV1KZ), YV2A (YV2AMM), YV3A (YV3AZC), YV4A (YV DX Club - Camatagua) YV5A (YV5ANT), YV6A (YV6PM), YV7A (YV7QP), YV8A (YV8CQ), YV9A (YV DX Club) and YV0DX (YV5ANT).

"If you still need any QSLs from the Aves Island 1979 and 1984 DXpeditions, we now have all the logs and cards." Sincerely, Pablo Alonso, YV5IVB

From the **Longpath** (North Alabama DX Club): Manical Musing: We are all aware that the Amateur Radio Community counts the famous and pre-legendary among its numbers. JY1 and K7UGA immediately spring to mind. In the entertainment field, we have Ronnie Millsap and Jean Shepherd, the latter being the author of "The Great Orpheum Gravy Boat Riot," "Scut Farkas and the Black Maria," and other light classics. But

Members of the French DX Foundation operated from the United Kingdom in the Worked All Europe contests. From left: F6BFH, F6GKQ, F6EEM, F6FYP, F2CW, and F6AUS.

now, here we are only a jog down I-65 from Music City, USA. Just suppose some of the other C&W greats were hams: Here's Willie Nelson:

On the list again,
I just can't wait to get on the list again.
The life I love is chasing countries with my friends;
I can't wait to get on the list again.

If Hank Snow had been a ham, you just might have hear him open the Grand Old Opry with:

That DX stations movin down the track,
Means your big chance ain't coming back
He's a movin' on - He'll soon be gone.
He's worked the 4s, won't work no more,
He's movin' on.

And don't forget the Crown Prince of the Texas Outlaws, Waylon Jennings:

Mama, don't let your babies grow up to chase countries,
Don't let them get towers and beams and stuff,
Let them be hunters and golfers and such.
Mama, don't let your babies grow up to chase countries.
He's always at home, but he's always alone,
Looking for rare ones to work!

DXers like smoky old hamfests and clear winter mornings,
Little warm Kenwoods and rare ones that call in the night.
Stacked monobanders and two-holer Alphas,
And longpath at breaking of day.
You won't understand him, but if the band's good,
He'll just be going his way.

Signed: Yours for the idyllic Pursuit of DX Greatness, Archibald Grosvenor, P0ET. (Hummmmmm ....Oh give me a home where the DXers roam and the bands are clear all day and seldom is heard the wife's discouraging words, "You're screwing up the TV Set"...Lyle)

from the **DX-TRA** (South Florida DX Association): In a recent editorial WB4MAI relates a complex service problem he had with his radio and the action taken by the manufacturer is notable:

"As indicated in the last issue of this erstwhile publication, I suffered a lightning strike this summer. I had thought that while some of my equipment was disabled, the lightning was likely to be worse than the aftermath. However, I was wrong! The service industry appears to be worse, although I hope not.

"By way of example, I will refer to the saga of one of my 2 meter rigs. I returned it to the manufacturer (which will remain nameless) with the charred/melted power cable and a letter of explanation. The radio was returned with the same cable. When I called to inquire (ie. complain), I was told that this was a 'dealer problem.' The technician then asked, 'But does the radio work?' When I reminded him that I was not able to check, absent a power cord, all he could say was 'Oh.' 'Oh,' was all I could then say myself." -ed WB4AMI.

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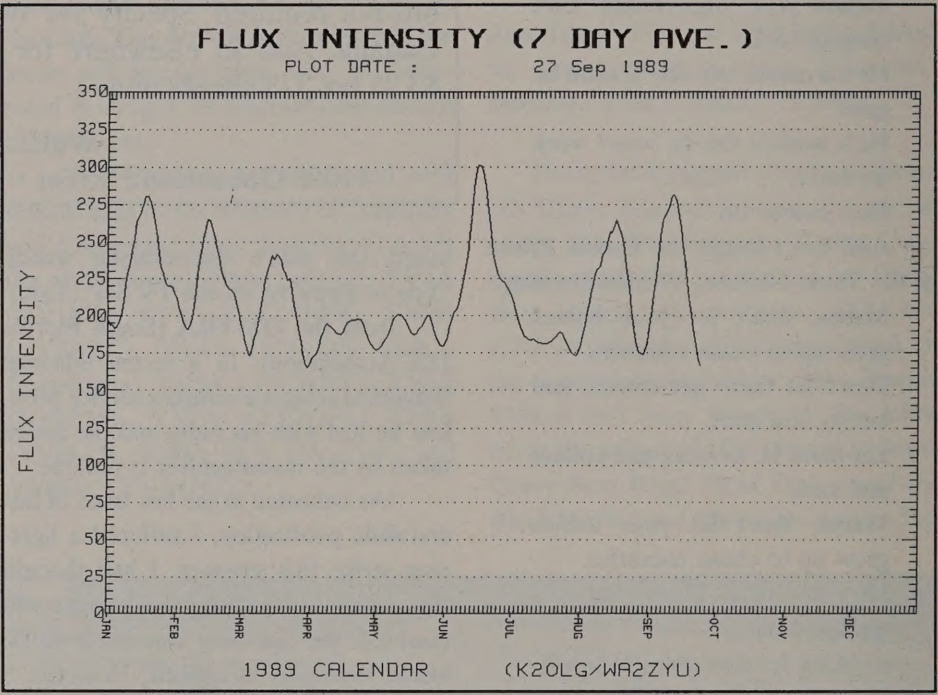
Cycle 22

The average sunspot count for the month of August 1989, was 166.8, the third highest in Sunspot Cycle 22. This was an enormous jump up from the average for July, which was only 126.8. However, it was still far below the average of 196 in June.

The 13-month smoothed sunspot number for February 1989, was 144.7. This is up from 141.9 the previous month. The smoothed sunspot number will continue to increase over the next few months as long as the monthly average stays above 120, as it has for the past year.

At a similar point in the sunspot cycle (about 30 months after minimum), the 13-month smoothed average stood at 156 in Cycle 19. Thus we are falling farther and farther behind that record-breaking cycle of the late 1950's.

However, 30 months after the minimum of Cycle 21, the average of that cycle was only 113, so we are still on a pace that will push Cycle 22 into second place in the sunspot record books.



This past year has been marked by an interesting pattern of solar flux peaks. As the above graph shows, for most of the year the solar flux has varied dramatically during each 27.5-day solar revolution.

The flux has varied more than 100 points in a matter of days, increasing rapidly as the more active side of the sun comes into view, and then dropping back as the quiet side rotates around.

Fortunately, even at its monthly minimum, the solar flux has been high enough to keep the higher HF bands wide open. Six-meter enthusiasts would like to see more days of 300+ flux, but those of us chasing DX on the HF bands have found conditions superb, especially around the equinox.

The maximum useable frequency (MUF) normally tends to drop as we move toward the winter solstice in late December. The shorter days (in the northern hemisphere) provide less time for solar radiation to create ions in the upper atmosphere. Given the extremely high level of solar activity near this sunspot peak, the MUF will probably stay high enough this winter to provide good DXing on 20-10 meters throughout the day and night.

Look for 10 and 12 meters to open very early in the morning, and stay open past local sunset. 15 and 17 meters will stay open well into the evening. 20 meters will be better than it was earlier in the Fall, and should stay open almost all night. The lower bands will be best just before local dawn.

DXing doesn't get much better than this; make the most of the good conditions, and pray for an absence of major solar flares.

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Some DX Club Awards

by Ted Melinosky K1BV

I wouldn't be surprised if I were told that most of you readers belonged to a DX club. While DXing is mostly a solitary sport, clubs fill the very real need to brag about one's accomplishments on the bands and to rub elbows with the big guns and little shooters in your area.

There are a large number of certificates issued for working members of DX clubs. If you have a prefix that doesn't normally attract a crowd, you might well be a member of such a club, and many awards hunters want your QSL to complete the requirements. It's nice to be wanted! Here's a cross section of DX club awards and their requirements.

Easter Island - Easter Island Award.

While not specifically listed as a DX club, all their contacts just have to be DX. Contact club station CE0ZIP and 2 other CE0's or contact a total of 4 CE0's after 1 January 1987. All bands and modes accepted. SWL OK. GCR list and $US5 or 10 IRC's to: Award Manager, Radio Club of Easter Island, PO Box 1, Easter Island, Chile.

Japan - Yokohama DX Club Award

Earn 9 points by working YDXC members (3 points each) and stations located in Yokohama (1 point). Those earning 50 or more points get the award free. Contacts after 1 January 1970. SWL OK. GCR list and fee of 10 IRC's to: YDXC Award Manager, Yasuoki Honda JH1APK, 3-128 Ishikawa-cho Naka-ku, Yokohama- city 231, Japan.

Member list: JA1CW HQ MJ XS BNW CRR CUW CWZ ELY EZE FDU FHK UMN WSK WVK JH1APK ARJ BUO DBU ECG EDB FNS JGX MSB ORA URT JR1MLU JE1ARQ CYM JUN MTE TTI JJ1BMB HKQ VVQ SQJ JL1MUT CHV MWI UNS JM1GYQ OFI JN1UJY JO1RDV EVJ JP1NWZ JA2VPO JA7UMT JH0LFE/1 JA9IFF/1 JJ1DBQ.

USSR U-DX-Club

Contact members of the U-DX-Club after 1 January 1988. All bands and modes. SWL OK. Europe and Asia need 15, Africa, North and South America need 10, rest of world need 5. Each member may be worked once. SWL cards from members are equally valid. Endorsement stickers for multiples of initial requirement. GCR list and 14 IRC's to: U-DX-Club, PO Box 88, Moscow, USSR. (Member list for SASE from K1BV)

USA NCDXC California Award

Available to all stations located outside the 50 states of the USA who have QSL's with 220 different California stations as follows:

1. Confirmed contacts with any 200 different stations located in California, and in addition, confirmed contacts with 20 different members of the NCDXC.

2. Contacts since October 1946, the date NCDXC was founded as the first DX club in the world. All bands and modes permitted.

3. QSL's may be checked and certified to by officials of recognized amateur radio societies and clubs of the world. GCR list should be sent.

4. The award is free. Include return postage if cards are sent. Membership lists available from sponsor. Apply to: NCDXC, PO Box 608, Menlo Park, CA. 94026.

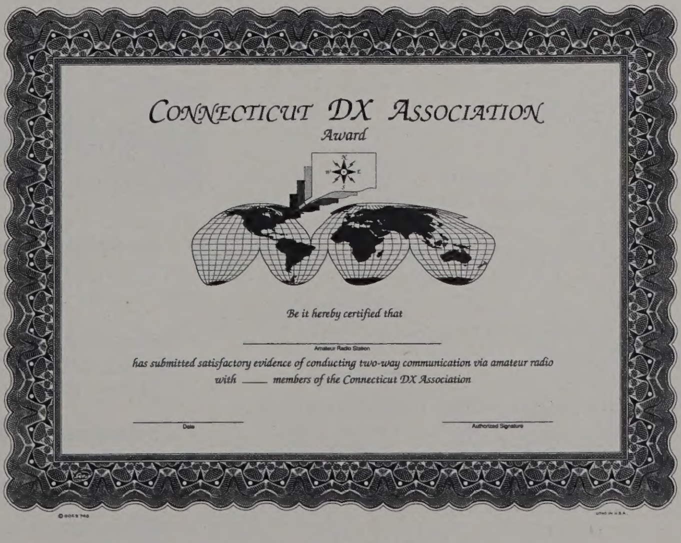
USA Connecticut DX Association Award

Work members of this active DX Club. (If you write the column, you get to plug your own club - de K1BV.) US stations need 5, rest of world 3. SWL OK. No time, date or band restrictions. GCR list and fee of $US1 or 3 IRC's to: Richard J. Moris KB1LE, 46 Collins Road, Bristol, CT. 06010.

Members: K1BNO BLT WWI RH THP BV VKO DII ZZ IN N1CIX EOL FEN QPM GBM W1NM NG WRN HUE YCO OU MPO WEF KB1HY WR CQ LV LE BE KA1QAS CI EI OLD QNZ RRL WA1ZVQ WB1EAZ EEU BVQ CBY KS1P NA1I NQ1K NO1Z NC1L KM1W NG1S AK1N ND1U W3AZD NV WA4CMS.

[Want the rules for your club award listed in the 1990 edition of the K1BV Directory of DX Awards? Simple - send me a copy of them.]

[Ted publishes the K1BV Directory of DX Awards and is a frequent contributor to *The DX Magazine*.]



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